Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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LD221317 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iran's reaction against the United States attacks "will not be restricted to the Persian Gulf region," an Iranian official cited by IRNA declared. Iranian Navy Commander Commodore Malekzadegan told Tehran television that the Navy has a plan to confront U.S. ships escorting vessels in the Gulf. IRGC Navy Commander Hoseyn 'Ala'i, who also participated in the television roundtable, noted that plans are being made to protect Iranian oil platforms against U.S. attacks. 'Ala'i claimed "probably 20" Americans were killed, including the two pilots of a helicopter downed and those aboard a "U.S. logistical vessel" sunk during the 18 April clashes with U.S. forces.

The UAE, whose oil platform was attacked by Iranian forces during the 18 April Gulf clashes, conveyed an official memorandum to Iran, WAKH reported.

Meanwhile, Hilversum radio reported 21 April that Netherlands minehunters deactivated a mine in the Gulf, adding that it was the fifth mine found in less than 1 week.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio termed Iraq's announcement of a moratorium on the war of the cities a "propaganda ploy," noting that the 20 April announcement is the fourth in the last 2 months. The last three times, Iraq resumed attacks on Iranian residential areas "after an interval," the radio added.

Meanwhile, according to an Iraqi communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio, Iran shelled Al-Qurnah with "tubular missiles," killing "several" civilians. In the Gulf, the Iraqi navy sunk a "medium war target," according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir signed a memorandum of understanding on strategic and economic cooperation with the United States with "satisfaction and happiness," IDF radio reported. The document symbolizes the continuation of the positive development of U.S.-Israeli relations, Shamir said.

In the territories, police fired rubber bullets at "rioters" attempting to fly black banners and throw rocks at police in 'Isawiyah, Jerusalem television reported. Noting that approximately 40 Arab policemen returned to work in the territories, the television said arson was attempted on a policeman's house in Hebron, while two policemen's cars were set on fire in Bethlehem and Hebron. According to IDF radio, a border police jeep was also set on fire in Jerusalem and a firebomb was thrown at a bank in Al-Taiyiba, but there were no casualties.

'Arafat told London's AL-TADAMUN that the Palestinian "uprising" has entered its third phase and that there are "still three more phases to go." He added that although arms will not be resorted to in the "uprising zone," "military action" would be escalated outside the zone. Meanwhile, IDF radio cited a statement by former Prime Minister Menahem Begin who predicted the "inhabitants of the territories" will one day enjoy self-rule as he believes that the peace plan agreed upon with Egypt will be implemented.

Al-Wazir, PLO-Syrian Relations

Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri asked the UN Security Council to investigate the assassination of PLO official Khalil al-Wazir and called for the "clear and strong "condemnation of Israeli "state terrorism" and its violation of Tunisia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Tunis radio reported.

Following talks in Damascus with the Syrian vice president and the Syrian foreign minister, PLO official Faruq Qaddumi said he expects PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit Damascus "as soon as possible" because there "is no longer any obstacle," Radio Monte Carlo reported. A PNC offical, who also held talks with the Syrian officials after Al-Wazir's funeral, said the PLO and Syria have "agreed to restore bilateral relations," according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah announced that 1.55 million people voted in the elections to the National Assembly, Kabul radio reported. He told a session of the Central Election Commission that 48 percent of the elected legislators included members of the opposition, the Peasant Justice Party, and the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan; 37 percent are members of the National Front; 21 percent are members of the PDPA; and 7 percent are members of trade unions, DYOA, and the Afghan women's council. The first session of the National Assembly will be held "immediately after the month of Ramadan," Najibullah stated.

Meanwhile, some 20 Soviet soldiers were killed by a land mine near a Soviet military post in Nangarhar Province, according to AFP, which noted that Jalalabad is being "heavily resupplied" in advance of the planned May 15 Soviet troop withdrawal.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Expected To Visit Damascus 'Soon'

LD211352 Kuwait KUNA in English 1315 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 21 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to visit Damascus soon and had not put any condition to visit Syria, a senior Palestinian official was quoted as saying here today.

"'Arafat will be coming to Damascus and we are waiting for him," said Faruq Qaddumi, head of the Political Department (PLO's foreign minister). 'Arafat was widely expected to show up at yesterday's funeral of his deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), who was assassinated last Saturday.

Abu Jihad was buried in Damascus in a highly-charged ceremony attended by Senior Palestinian, Syrian and Arab leaders.

Qaddumi told the United Arab Emirates newspaper "Al-Khalij" the PLO expected "positive results" from a series of present and future meetings between Palestinian and Syrian officials. He cited Syria's "positive" initiatives to allow the burial of Abu Jihad in Damascus with full military honors.

That initiative will "help in restoring Palestinian-Syrian relations," the Sharjah-based newspaper quoted the PLO official as saying. He said that senior Palestinian officials, who have arrived for the funeral, have conducted a series of meetings with Syrian officials and "we are continuing the dialogue."

"We have achieved successful steps to overcome all obstacles that might face the continuation of these contacts," Qaddumi pointed out. He praised Syrian and Algerian efforts to push for a summit meeting of the 21-member Arab League to focus on how to support the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation authorities.

Qaddumi, Hawatimah Praise PLO-Syria Talks

JN220626 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Last night's Damascus talks between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Fatah Central Committee delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi, also known as Abu al-Lutf, were concluded shortly before midnight.

The Palestinian delegation comprised Hani al-Hasan, Rafiq al-Natshah, Salim al-Za'nun, and Muhammad Ghunaym, also known as Abu Mahir.

Following the talks, Qaddumi said the dialogue was not only positive but permeated with a spirit of optimism and the hope that normal relations will be restored and that both sides will make large strides toward backing the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Qaddumi added that these meetings, which began with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday and ended with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, express a new fact in the history of Arab struggle.

These meetings will be completed in Damascus in the near future in the presence of all the Palestinian brothers, headed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, with the aim of drawing up political plans to back the Palestinian and Arab struggle against Zionism and Israel and against all schemes aimed at bringing about an Arab capitulation or denying the Palestinian people's national rights, he said.

Asked about the possibility of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Damascus, Abu al-Lutf said: I expect this as soon as possible because Syria's doors are open for all Palestinian brothers and there is no longer any obstacle.

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah stated yesterday that the time is ripe for the normalization of relations between Syria and the PLO. Hawatimah, who returned to Damascus the day before yesterday after an absence of more than 1 year, stressed that dialogue between Syria and the PLO has started to pave the way toward rebuilding the strategic alliance between the two sides.

He added that the PLO leaders currently in Damascus are fully empowered to act on this. Moreover, he said, the other members of the Palestinian leadership are awaiting the signal to come to Syria once they become certain a political meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad is possible.

This positive development in relations between Syria and the PLO leadership responds to the requisites and tasks of the current stage and constitiutes a significant positive outcome of the reconciliation efforts undertaken by several Palestinian forces, led by the PFLP and the DFLP leaderships, in addition to the conciliatory efforts exerted particularly by Algeria and the Soviet leadership.

PLO Official on 'Arafat Absence From Funeral

JN211550 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Khalid al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee member [title as heard], said in Brussels today that the PLO agrees to establishing two states in Palestine.

He added: We have not abandoned our dream of unifying Palestine by peaceful means. However, and based on realistic approaches, we agree to establishing two states. Therefore, we call for an international conference.

Al-Hasan gave a decisive, clear answer to reporters' questions on Yasir 'Arafat's absence from Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir's] funeral in Damascus as follows:

The current relations between the PLO and Syria are the cause of this absence. We do not see any indications of a restoration of relations between Damascus and the PLO.

A pro-Syrian Palestinian official has opined that 'Arafat had hoped that an official invitation would be extended to him to visit Syria and that President Hafiz al-Asad would receive him. However, he added, Damascus did not go beyond allowing him to return to Syria.

Syria, PLO Reportedly Agree To Restore Ties

NC220928 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun has disclosed that Syria and the PLO have agreed to restore bilateral relations following a break of 5 years. He said PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Syria in the near future for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

He described his meeting with Syrian Vice President Khaddam as fruitful, involving a review of Palestinian-Syrian relations and various issues. Both parties, he said, were in total agreement on these issues, particularly regarding the suspect initiatives launched by U.S. envoys in the region.

Algeria

Freed Hostages Leave for Kuwait 21 Apr

NC211543 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Algiers, April 21 (AFP)—The 31 hostages freed from the hijacked Kuwait Airways jet left here Thursday afternoon bound for Kuwait, where a triumphal welcome awaited them. The 24 passengers and seven crew, released early Wednesday after 10 days held captive on a Boeing 747, left aboard a Kuwait Airways 707 specially dispatched to Algeria.

Ahmad Fahd, a leader of the Kuwaiti delegation that had spent a week negotiating through Algerian mediators for the release of the hostages, told reporters before the departure that all the hostages were able to travel, after examinations conducted at Ain Naaja military hospital here. Three members of Kuwait's ruling Al-Sabah family—two women and a man—were among the 31 hostages boarding the plane.

"We were treated with deference and without brutality," said one of the princesses, Anwar Khalid Al-Sabah. "They treated us in a special way as women."

The hijacked Boeing 747 was expected to remain at Houari Boumedienne Airport for several days—possibly a week—before it was again ready to fly, according to Kuwaiti sources here.

The jet "suffered greatly" during the hijacking, said the source, adding that a Kuwait Airways technical team was to arrive Thursday to begin repair work. The engines had been heavily used since the craft left Bangkok February 4, both in flight and on the ground—where they were needed to power the air-conditioning. At least one engine was not functioning, said the source, who added that the plane would not have been able to take off again without significant repairs.

In addition, the perishable cargo—mainly fruits and vegetables loaded in Bangkok—was removed from the plane Wednesday in an advanced state of decay, since the hijackers had not allowed airport workers to enter the cargo bay. The plane was permeated by the stench of rotten apples.

In Kuwait, correspondents reported that Kuwaitis were preparing a triumphant welcome for the released hostages, expected to arrive around 1900 GMT.

Envoy to Paris Interviewed on Hijacking

LD201639 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, ambassador to France, by unidentified correspondent, in Paris—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Good afternoon, Mr Abdelhamid Mehri. You are the Algerian ambassador to France.

[Mehri] Good afternoon.

[Correspondent] Thank you for being with us live on this program. You have just been at a meeting with the ambassadors of the Arab League countries. I suppose that there was a lot of discussion about the ending of the Kuwaiti Boeing affair.

[Mehri] There was some discussion of this issue, but there are other issues, unfortunately, preoccupying the Arab world at the moment, in particular the situation in the occupied territories and the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

[Correspondent] Getting back to the Kuwaiti Boeing hijack, the release of the hostages is a real victory for Algeria.

[Mehri] I think it is a happy outcome for everybody. Algeria, in common with all people who love peace and freedom, cannot but be delighted at the happy ending to this delicate problem of the Kuwaiti Boeing hijack.

[Correspondent] Mr Ambassador, there is nonetheless a mystery in this affair: What has become of the hijackers? Because the fact remains that the hijackers killed two passengers during this hijack.

[Mehri] Yes. I think a degree of mystery is absolutely necessary for success in a delicate problem of this kind. I think complete discretion is absolutely necessary in dealing with these problems. Algeria has always acted in accordance with the principle that it only agrees to receive a hijacked aircraft at the express wish of the country that owns the aircraft—in this case, Kuwait. It also tries to do its utmost to achieve a happy, that is humane, solution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding the hijackers, you will have heard just now our special correspondent say they obtained safe conduct from the government to go to an unknown destination of their choice, in other words, no legal proceedings will be taken against them.

[Mehri] Regarding a number of problems, Algeria exerts its responsibilities in a sovereign fashion. If I say that Algeria takes full responsibility depending on the situation, this is because there are no absolute rules to observe on an international level. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You have been heard several times in similar situations and in this particular case. Could you not be heard in other cases? I am thinking of the three French hostages still being held in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Mehri] If Algeria in similar situations does not intervene, or does not reach solutions, it is not because it does not want to. Algeria will never refuse to make its contribution toward solving such problems. Sometimes, however, there are limits. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receives Iranian Ambassador

LD220905 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Algiers, April 22, IRNA—Iran's ambassador here, Siavosh Ya'qubi met with Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi Thursday and handed him a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

Issues of mutual interest and ways to expand them, as well as Washington's military aggression against the Islamic Republic in the Persian Gulf waters, the Iraq-Iran war and other international events were discussed between the two sides in the meeting.

Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Libya

PM221328 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 19 Apr 88 p 5

[APS report: "Algerian-Libyan Political Talks in Tripoli"]

[Text] Algerian-Libyan political talks took place in Tripoli on Sunday under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Office and minister of foreign affairs, and Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison. The two delegations reviewed the situation in the Maghreb, focussing on the development of bilateral relations in the region, the process of Maghreb unity, and the continuation of the West Sahara conflict. Developments in the Middle East were also discussed by the two foreign ministers.

In this context, the two ministers examined in detail the development of the uprising and ways of supporting it, and assessed the action taken by the Arab League seven-member committee. They exchanged views on conditions for the forthcoming extraordinary Arab summit and ways of enabling it to fulfill its historical function of supporting the Palestinian people's uprising and of defining a joint Arab attitude to the current challenges of Arab-Zionist confrontation.

The serious escalation of hostilities in the Iraq-Iran conflict was also examined by the two delegations and once again they have highlighted its devastating effects on the two countries and its threats to the region. In this context, the two delegations exchanged information on their respective assessments of UN efforts.

Finally, the Chad-Libya border dispute was examined by the two delegations in light of the recent Libreville OAU ad hoc committee meeting, which was held at the foreign minister level. A meeting of this committee at head of state level is due to be held shortly in Addis Ababa.

During his friendly working visit to Libya, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi met members of the Arab diplomatic corps in Tripoli which enabled the foreign minister to explain Algeria's analysis of current developments in the Middle East and, in particular, of the Palestinian uprising, and to stress the importance for the Palestinian cause and Arab-Zionist confrontation of the extraordinary Arab summit

FLN Appeals for Unity After Al-Wazir Death

LD200242 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The FLN has issued an appeal to the Arab conscience that the death of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] may be propitious for the establishment of a dialogue among the Arab countries. In a communique published this evening, the FLN stresses that such a dialogue is needed in order to solve as quickly as possible the problems that represent an obstacle to the path of solidarity and unity among the Arab ranks in the face of the imperialist-Zionist (?conspiracy) which threatens the Palestinian revolution and the independence of the Arab nation.

The FLN, which sharply condemns the assassination of Abu Jihad, also calls for support for the PLO and for the popular uprising in the occupied territories until total victory is achieved. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Congratulates Kuwaiti Amir on Hijack End

NC202026 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak telephoned Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today to congratulate him on the end of the Kuwaiti plane hijacking and on the safety of the passengers.

The amir of Kuwait expressed gratitude and appreciation for these fraternal sentiments as well as for the Egyptian people's support for Kuwait and its people.

Official Reports on Tabah Arbitration Sessions

NC181515 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a report today from Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, director of the Foreign Ministry's legal department, on the outcome of the 11-15 April sessions of the international arbitration panel on the Tabah issue. During these sessions the panel members listened to verbal pleas on the issue from both the Egyptian and Israeli sides.

In a statement following the meeting, Ambassador Mahir affirmed that Egypt had entered the final round of pleas from a point of strength and with confidence, in view of the evidence and arguments. Egypt emerged even stronger and more confident than before, he added.

Ambassador Mahir, who returned here from Geneva yesterday, pointed out that Egypt's position in the case is based on irrefutable documents and legal, geographical, and historical grounds. Israel's weak position had become clear to the arbitration panel, he said, adding that Israel has no case to defend and therefore resorts to raising a furor to cover its weak position. [passage omitted]

Opposition Party To 'Freeze' Assembly Activity

PM201445 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
5 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Higher Committee Recommends Withdrawal From People's Assembly"]

[Text] The Socialist Labor Party's Higher Committee, at its emergency session held last Friday, has decided to freeze the activities of the party's parliamentary body until the end of the current session of the People's Assembly.

The committee has empowered party leader Mahmud Shukri to discuss the matter with the other parties, with the proviso that there is the desire for unity of opposition ranks to continue.

Furthermore, the committee rejected the party leader's resignation from the People's Assembly. It also announced its support of Dr Hulmi Murad as party secretary general and it rejected his decision to resign from the party. Within this framework, a delegation from the committee was empowered to contact Dr Hilmi Murad in order to persuade him to return.

Murad Explains Decision To Quit Labor Party

PM201333 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
12 Apr 88 p 5

[Untitled article by Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad]

[Excerpts] By way of his letter published in AL-SHA'B last week under the title "No, Dr Hilmi," Brother Dr Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa has prompted me to explain the nature of, objective of, and reasons for my decision to quit partisan work, especially since the so-called national papers have completely or absolutely ignored my statement to the nation by not publishing it. In fact, AL-SHA'B did not publish it on the grounds that it was issued by the secretary general of the Labor Party, whose mouthpiece is AL-SHA'B itself.

So, it was content with stating that the party's high committee would not accept the decision and assigned a delegation to meet with me and persuade me to abandon it—an action by the party's high committee of which I am proud; a brotherly mission by colleagues in common struggle, who are members of the party, and whom I must thank. But it is a matter of cause and effect, in the sense that so long as the reasons—which I will explain—for my decision still stand, then the decision I have made must be adhered to.

My decision to quit partisan work was not made in protest against the extension of the state of emergency for a period of 3 years and 1 month, but against the consequences that could take place during this period of time as a result of such an extension, and also against the hasty way in which the extension was applied—which has reflected certain meanings and indications.

Such an extension means that the present regime intends to rule the country with steel and fire as well as with the sword of detention and torture against all citizens for a new period of 3 years. The claim that the proponents of opinions and publicists will not be harmed by martial law will not ease our rejection, since we are not aiming to achieve personal gain. We are struggling for better rule in the interest of the people as a whole.

Such an extension for such a long period of time emphasizes the policy of intransigence by which we are ruled—a policy eager to ensure that there are no opinions or popular demands other than those of the leaders of the ruling regime. It sounds like: If you did not like the previous state of emergency, which was decided for 1 or 2 years, then here is another one for a period of 3 years and 1 month "extra"; and those who do not like it can bang their heads against the wall!

This intransigent policy, which is unacceptable, has insisted on applying many erroneous decisions and keeping numerous repulsive, ineffectual, and corrupt figures in leading positions.

Such an extension proves the lack of correct vision and perspicacity on the part of the decisionmakers. It is so easy to extend one year after another, especially in view of the existence of a false majority within the People's Assembly, which supports whatever decisions or legislation the government of the current regime makes. So the people both inside and outside need no telling that the situation in Egypt is not reassuring, security is unstable, and the government will not be able to control terrorism under ordinary laws for the coming 3 years, thus affecting the country's economic reputation as well as its international status.

This extension of the state of emergency 40 days before its termination in a way that surprised both supporters and opponents, despite the holding of the so-called national dialogue for which the ruling party called, and the fact that the opportunity was not given to sufficiently discuss the issue within the People's Assembly to determine, in view of the experiment over the past 6 years, whether there was a need to work under the emergency law again—all this reflects deception, the abandonment of true democracy, and the desire to impose the ruling will on the entire people without true consultation while false democracy is being promoted. [passage omitted]

All the indications resulting from the extension of the state of emergency prompt all those who love their country to demand the reconsideration of the method of rule, since the situation has deteriorated in all fields over the past 6 years. Both moderates and optimists had hoped that President Husni Mubarak's second term would be brighter. But I frankly and sincerely say that the way in which the state of emergency was extended dashed the hopes of everyone.

Over his entire period in office President Mubarak has not provided one single dose of the democracy he talked about to the people. And all the things the government writers are talking about, namely the existence of party plurality and the expression of opinions, in fact existed during Al-Sadat's era. [passage omitted]

During President Husni Mubarak's era elections have been rigged more than once. In fact, some People's Assembly members have been insulted inside the Assembly. Their parliamentary immunity has been violated outside it by preventing them from moving freely to perform prayers at the mosques and by physically assaulting them! The interior minister has ridiculed questions directed at him, thus attacking the dignity of the legislative authority, but the speaker of the People's Assembly took no action and the prime minister did not intervene. No one questioned this minister about his abominable acts. [passage omitted]

It seems that President Mubarak's words and speeches are one thing and what is happening in reality and action is another. We heard brilliant religious words and spiritual wisdom in his written speech to the Islamic call conference, to the point that listeners thought they were living in an era similar to that of 'Umar ibn al-Khattab [second caliph]. But we soon woke up to realize the reality represented by gambling centers at hotels, shops selling alcoholic drinks throughout the country, pyramids, street cabarets, the pursuit of bearded people who go to the mosques, as well as corruption and the theft of public money. [passage omitted]

Corruption has spread rapidly. We have never heard in any previous era of tens of millions of pounds belonging to the public sector being stolen from banks and then smuggled out of the country. Billions of pounds have been stolen, but the necessary measures have not been taken to prevent this drain. We wrote about corruption in the oil sector and accused Petroleum Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil of specific things, only some of which the public prosecution is investigating.

The request that his policies be questioned was postponed for 6 months. Agreements he concluded with foreign oil companies were revealed, but these were approved quickly and without a thorough study despite the harsh terms they contain. Despite all this the oil minister is still in his position. In fact, he will remain in it because one of the opposition leaders rapped him on the knuckles. President Mubarak visited a petrochemical project and praised all those who participated in it, including the man who committed the corruption still being investigated by the public prosecution service. [passage omitted]

The ruling regime must not think that it will escape the consequences of this dangerous situation by controlling the people's affairs, under the emergency law, by steel and fire.

Historic information should prompt the regime to reconsider its calculations. The difficult circumstances could force patient people to embark on an uprising similar to that of 18 and 19 January 1977. And if the people as a whole do not make a move, a group could do so on the pretext of rescuing the country, as happened with regard to the Free Officers in July 1952. In fact, a number of individuals could agree on a confrontation, as happened in October when Khalid al-Islambuli and his comrades opened fire on Al-Sadat. The ruling regime must understand these lessons and reconsider its calculations out of concern for the interests of Egypt and its people.

By taking my decision I did not mean to warn the ruling regime alone. My objective is to urge the opposition parties and forces to reconsider their position under the terrorist police system for a period of 3 years, during which the ruling regime will continue to consider the political parties a facade to prove the existence of a democracy based on party plurality, although it is a false democracy. [passage omitted]

The opposition has been belittled to the point that the president no longer meets with its leaders as he used to do in the past. He embarked on his tour of the Gulf states and then Europe and the United States without consulting them or informing them of the results. This was despite the fact that he had met with opposition leaders in the countries he visited. He prepared his initiative to resolve the Palestinian problem without consulting the opposition, confining this to the official group around him. The United States presented a counterinitiative, but the opposition's opinion was not sought.

The UAE president stayed in Egypt for 1 week without the opportunity to meet with anyone from the opposition. And recently NDP Secretary General Dr Yusuf Wali, and not party leader Husni Mubarak, invited opposition leaders to a national dialogue to discuss the masses' problems resulting from the fallacious policies pursued. But President Mubarak did not open the dialogue. Then such a gathering was struck by the extension of the state of emergency. Is this a democratic method? Is this rule based on party plurality, shura, and the expression of opinions?

If the opposition parties continue to play their role within the boundaries of the court determined by the ruling regime and according to its rules, in order to achieve its objectives and its continued rule while the situation continues to deteriorate, then the opposition parties and forces will be held responsible before the people and history for the deterioration of the situation.

Their activities will then be considered a kind of deception of the people, since we live under a democracy that does not reflect reality. That is why the opposition parties and forces are urged to express their methods, so that firm positions can be adopted to correct these twisted schemes. Otherwise they will lose their credibility among the people.

Finally, my decision to quit party work is a kind of bell I am ringing in order to wake up the people in all categories and warn them of the current dangerous situation, and to remind them that their failure to participate in correcting the situation will be considered a kind of laxity or negligence, or will be attributed to their reliance on the parties in the arena or to their desperation. And all this will lead us into a chasm. [passage omitted]

It must be made clear that I am not desperate. I am ringing the bells of awareness and caution. I am not requesting anyone to adopt my stand and quit party work, since I am not going to rest. I shall continue political work outside the framework of party work, namely by writing in the Egyptian and Arab press as well as participating in conferences and seminars. I will deliver lectures and write books. I will also turn to other legitimate means of political action. But those within the parties must work toward changing their methods and positions in order to match the existing situation in view of the experiments of past years. [passage omitted]

U.S. Stand on Saudi Missiles Criticized

JN211139 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
19 Apr 88 p 5

[Editorial: "A Provocation the Arabs Do Not Accept"]

[Text] We may understand what Washington says about its special relationship with its protege, Israel, and the commitments it is imposing on itself toward this Jewish state in order to satisfy the Zionist and Jewish circles and groups in the United States. We may also try to understand the reasons behind the U.S. veto at the Security Council to block the issuance of any resolution that would upset the Tel Aviv government, regardless of the crimes this government has perpetrated and the principles and laws it has violated.

But what we can neither understand nor comprehend is this exaggerated hardline attitude by some U.S. congressmen who demand the removal of the missiles which Saudi Arabia has procured to protect its security and defend its territory on the ground that these missiles may pose a threat to Israel.

The demand is strange and absurd at the same time. What is more absurd is the mentality behind it. This mentality goes beyond all limits and rights when it tries to impose its trusteeship on all the Arab countries and prevent them from obtaining any weapons, even if they are defensive, so that Israel alone will continue to possess all types of sophisticated weapons and be stronger than all the Arab countries combined.

Why have we not heard a single voice in the U.S. Congress condemning Israel's production and introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East region and its refusal to submit to any restrictions imposed by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the treaties regarding the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons? The U.S. Government and Congress are aware of this, but they close their eyes to Israel's violation of laws and treaties even if this exposes the whole world to danger.

The position of the agents of Israel and Zionism in the U.S. Congress on the Saudi missiles is a provocation directed not only against Saudi Arabia, but the entire Arab nation as well. This is an impudent provocation and only deserves to be despised.

Editor Links Mosad, Abu Jihad Assassination

NC161647 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1510 GMT 16 Apr 88

[Statement by AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari on the "Spotlight on Events" program on 16 April—live or recorded]

[Text] The assassination of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, is a catastrophe in the full sense of the word for the Palestinian issue, the Palestinian revolution, and the Arab situation.

It is a catastrophe for the Palestinian issue because he was one of the most dedicated and honest of the Palestinian strugglers who believe in their cause and are ready to sacrifice themselves to regain Palestinian rights.

A man with a sound military mind and brains for organizational activities, calm and self-composed, he preferred to work silently, but with extreme firmness and seriousness. He is well-known in southern Lebanon and his operations across the Jordan Valley and even inside Israel are highly acclaimed.

I personally believe, with absolutely no doubt, that it was because of his close and direct association with the ongoing uprising in the occupied territories that he was killed by the Israeli Mossad, even if Arab hands were used. This is a familiar operation. They have killed other Palestinian leaders abroad, such as Sa'id Hamami, Na'im Khadr, and 'Izz al-Din Qalaq, with Arab hands. However, the mastermind and planner of these operations was the Israeli Mosad.

I do not hesitate to say that today's assassination of Abu Jihad was carried out by Israeli intelligence. The Palestinian leadership will, of course, produce more leaders, as it has always done. However, it is a great loss in the full meaning of the word. This operation constitutes an Israeli invitation to violence, not an end to violence. It represents a serious escalation of the situation.

It is not only an act of aggression against the PLO or one of its leaders. It is an aggression against Tunis, an independent and sovereign state, regardless of the culprit, whether Arab or non-Arab.

I repeat: Israeli intelligence planned, masterminded, and carried out this operation. It is a new aggression that follows the earlier attack on PLO Headquarters in Tunis following the Larnaca operation and constitutes a serious escalation in the situation. Unfortunately, I am compelled to say that I believe the coming days will bring more violence, not less.

Editorial Views Coordination With Jordan

JN172007 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Arab Interests Are the Goal"]

[Text] President Mubarak began a working visit yesterday to Jordan to discuss with the Jordanian monarch the latest Mideast developments. They will review new developments against the background of three intertwined key elements.

These are the American efforts to get the proposed international conference convened, Israeli inflexibility toward these efforts, and the developing Israeli handling of the Palestinian uprising with Israel intensifying its repressive measures, including the expulsion of Palestinians.

Add to that the negative repercussions of the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking and the dark shadow it has cast on the good picture the Palestinian and Arab struggle has produced with world public opinion.

Egypt's moves on the Arab and world scenes are prompted by its concern to keep the peace process going and to bolster the Palestinian uprising politically and morally.

It is in this context that the two Arab leaders have been meeting regularly. Their meetings ultimately seek to forge joint positions to underpin a united Arab posture, which has never been so sorely needed.

If Egyptian diplomacy seeks from its political moves to back the Palestinian struggle and to secure points of agreement between Jordan and the PLO so they share one trench, the humanitarian moves for the well-being of Jordan's citizens in the occupied land for the consolidation of their steadfastness is also a major concern of Egypt's.

To give an example, a few hours before his departure for Jordan, President Mubarak chaired a meeting of the political and executive branch of government, which decided to send 159 tonnes of foodstuffs and medicines to the occupied land and explored ways to get them through.

Egyptian-Jordanian coordination, which got underway in 1984, is in the eyes of public opinion and the Arab man in the street a solid fortress guarded by watchful eyes.

Morocco

Hassan Cables Condolences on Al-Wazir Killing

LD181338 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Rabat, Apr 18 (MAP)—The death of Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) constitutes "a big loss that affects not only the Palestinian people but all the equity and justice loving peoples throughout the world," says King Hassan II in the condolences message he addressed leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat following the assassination of the assistant commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

"We have lost in him a personal friend, an outstanding militant and an eminent thinker who faithfully struggled for the liberation of his homeland and constantly endeavoured so that his people recover their right to self-rule," says the sovereign adding that "the deceased's blood shed by criminal hands will undoubtedly reaffirm the world's sympathy to the Palestinian people and increase interest for a fair settlement of their problem."

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Domestic, Other Issues

JN211544 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Apr (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that he has proposed to Dr Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Islamic Front, a formula to overcome his reservations over joining a national reconciliatiion government. The formula is being studied, he added.

The day before yesterday the Front had refused to sign a document prepared by the parties that will join the national reconciliation government, because they refused to set a 60-day deadline for enforcing the Islamic shari'a—which the Front has stipulated as a condition for taking part in the government.

Speaking at a news conference held today, the prime minister said that the achievements made since the Constituent Assembly, or parliament, passed the national reconciliation plan are great by any standards, and that aside from the disagreement with the Islamic Front over the shari'a issue, a widespread national consensus on key issues has been reached.

Al-Mahdi said that the basic formation of a government is possible, but the big issues facing the nation require a pooling of all energies through a national reconciliation government that can address the reconciliation program, including the 4-year development plan, a deterrent mobilization effort, and defense of the country's sovereignty.

The prime minister said the opportunities and options for peace are increasing and he is now looking into some of them. He commended the Armed Forces and their recent victory at Al-Nasir despite the martyrdom of 5 officers and 45 non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

He pointed out that the battle for Al-Nasir, in which the outlaws incurred heavy losses, proved the folly of those who use arms against the country's democratic system.

It also shows that supporters of conspiracy want us to lose our independence through subservience to foreign powers and internal submission. Hence the victory in the battle for Al-Nasir serves as a deterrent to potential aggressors against our freedom, the prime minister added.

Al-Mahdi praised Algeria's handling of the Kuwaiti airliner hijack crisis. He indicated that in principle Sudan is opposed to such acts of terror, which serve no useful purpose but put the safety of innocents at risk.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi expressed profound regret over the assassination of the martyr Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad. He expressed the hope that the Palestinian organizations will take this tragic opportunity to unite themselves around their cause and support the Palestinian masses' uprising.

The prime minister complained about the exacerbation of the refugees' problems in Sudan. He pointed out that refugees now constitute 10 percent of the country's population, constituting an unbearable burden on the country.

His excellency appealed to the international community to shoulder its responsibilities toward those refugees, especially since 50 percent of the population of Southern Sudan have now headed for Indian [as received] centers in southern cities, while 33 percent headed northward. He said 1 million of those moved to Ethiopia. This is the first official aknowledgement of the presence of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi criticized the attitude of the foreign media toward Sudan. He said that they attack Sudan because they do not believe that democracy is possible in the Third World.

Answering a question on the left's stand, Al-Sadiq said that the Sudanese Communist Party has affirmed that it does not reject any laws stemming from Islamic shari'a as long as they provide basic liberties and include equal rights for citizens. He explained that he is thinking of a way to join the left in the reconciliation.

In his news conference, the prime minister announced the Sudanese Government's approval of relief action by the International Red Cross in the areas of operations.

Al-Mahdi said the rebel movement's agreement to provide safety for the International Red Cross is not considered a provocative or extortive act against the government, since the government has blessed the efforts of the Islamic-Christian Mercy Council in this regard and has asked the Red Cross to participate.

On meetings expected between Sudan and Ethiopia, Al-Mahdi said that unresolved issues between the two countries must be solved on the basis of goodneighborliness.

Al-Mahdi affirmed that Sudan has no desire to exploit the circumstances of any of its neighboring countries to cause troubles for it or others. He affirmed that Sudan adopts a constant, principled stand based on the establishment of peace and the devotion to building the country. He affirmed that Sudan has a strong negotiating position which cannot be weakened.

Official Cited on Reconciliation Government

JN211059 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, April 21 (SUNA)—The secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) one of the ruling parties, Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, has warned against a possible disastrous setback in the country if the urgent problems, at the top of them the southern question, are not solved.

For reaching this end all our differences should be suspended till the convening of the proposed constitutional conference along with lodging the laws that substitute the previous Islamic shari'a laws imposed by former President Numayri and easing the Sudanese people's living conditions, Al-Hindi said.

Al-Hindi pointed [out] that the proposed national reconciliation government should first repeal Sept. laws and present the substitute laws prepared by a five member committee to the Constituent Assembly "parliament" for endorsement and prepare as quickly as possible for the convening of the constitutional conference.

On the other hand, member of the Council of the State Idris al-Banna, "Al-Ummah Party," has warned against isolating any sector from the national detente.

The Al-Ummah, the DUP, and the opposition Islamic National Front Parties are currently in successive meetings and rounds of talks for reforming a new government called the national government.

Reportage on Civil War in Southern Region

Government Convoy 'Ambushed'

EA211557 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The latest reports from Bahr al-Ghazal administrative area say that the remaining 130 enemy vehicles making up the convoy of 153 which was ambushed 21 miles from Waw on 7th to 14th April 1988, have returned to Waw.

A correspondent for Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in northern Bahr al-Ghazal says that the convoy had not been able to break through to Gogrial to relieve the enemy troops there.

It is worth mentioning that the enemy convoy of 153 vehicles was ambushed by the combined SPLA forces of Bee, Shark, Zaslan, Tughyan, Winch and (Munchar) battalions under the operational command of Captain Edward Achunyi Dao and overall command of Commander Daniel Aweit Akuot.

Over 120 enemy soldiers were killed, including the deputy commander of the convoy, Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Husayn Jalal al-Din. Two were captured and 23 vehicles were destroyed. The correspondent says that some important secret documents were found in the briefcase of Lt Col Ibrahim Husayn Jalal al-Din.

In a related development, units of Fire battalion intercepted the enemy soldiers who attempted to come out of their garrison in Gogrial on 9th April 1988 at Majok area. Four enemy soldiers were killed and 10 others were injured. The remnants ran to their garrison in disarray. [passage omitted]

Ugandan President To Mediate

EA212031 Khartoum SUNA in French 1515 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Apr (SUNA)—The Ugandan head of state, Mr Yoweri Museveni, recently agreed to play the role of mediator between the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, SPLM, in order to bring peace and stability to southern Sudan, the independent daily AL-AYYAM reported on Thursday.

In a statement to AL-AYYAM, Mr Idris al-Banna, vice president of the Supreme State Council, said that at the end of this week President Museveni would start his contacts with the Garang movement of armed rebellion in southern Sudan.

The Mercy Council delegation, during a recent visit to Kenya, held negotiations with SPLM representatives on the possibility of taking emergency aid to victims of the civil war in southern Sudan, the daily added. It also noted that the Mercy Council would continue its negotiations with the Garang movement to agree on a plan for transporting food to citiziens affected by war in the southern region.

Communist Advocates Talks

JN211110 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, Apr 21 (SUNA)—Secretary General of the Sudanese Communist Party Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud has suggested that the government should continue negotiations with the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] by a political and military delegation.

The participation of militants in such negotiations is essential and decisive because the SPLA is basically a military one, he said.

The ending of the civil war in the South is the pass for solving all our political, economic and social problems, Nuqud concluded.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Addresses UN on Al-Wazir

LD220011 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Apr 88

["Text" of Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri's address to the opening session of the UN Security Council on 21 April—read by announcer]

[Text] On Saturday, 16 April at 0130 the sovereignty and territorial sanctity of my country, Tunisia, was subjected to criminal and terrorist aggression. In a northern suburb of the Tunisian capital, a group of Israeli terrorists armed with 9-mm Uzi machine guns with silencers stormed the house of Mr Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, member of the PLO Executive Committee, and shot and killed him. They also killed a Tunisian citizen working as a gardener at the house and two Palestinians who were guarding the house.

The assassination of Mr Khalil al-Wazir was carried out in an appalling way in front of his wife and young children.

After carrying out their despicable crime, at 0144 the terrorists left in two Volkswagen minibuses and a Peugot 305 car, which were found after a few hours at Rouad Beach 15 km away from the scene of the crime. These vehicles were rented from three specialized tourist agencies.

The Tunisian Government has hastened to form a committee to investigate the circumstances of this serious operation. The preliminary results of the investigations show that, as the assassination operation commenced, a Boeing 707 was flying close to Tunisian shores.

The aircraft, registered as No 4977, was clearly displaying Israeli markings. It was later revealed that this aircraft, despite its civilian appearance, was a military one providing support for the terrorist group, as it was supplied with the most advanced electronic equipment, which enabled it to jam communications in the area of the crime.

This evidence, with the involuntary statements from various Israeli sources expressing their pleasure and happiness with the success of the operation—statements stressed by the international media, especially those known for their bias to Israel—exposed the direct responsibility of the Israeli Government in organizing and implementing this appalling terrorist scheme.

It is ominous that this aggression was committed during a period in which there are numerous efforts aimed at finding a solution to the Middle East problem which was, and still is, threatening peace and security. It seems as though the aim of this operation was to disrupt and frustrate these efforts.

The involvement of Israel in this operation—which, according to international law is a blatant violation of territorial sanctity and constitutes direct aggression against the sovereignty of an independent state and UN member—exposes the terrorist character of the (?Zionists') methods and underlines their disregard for international law and convention and the principles specified in the UN Charter.

Everyone knows, and history is the witness, that such a terrorist operation will never stop the march of the peoples toward freedom, and that the brave uprising of the Palestinian people will definitely lead to the restoration of its national rights.

The strongest proof is the evidence we have, which proves that the crime was premeditated and organized. The evidence is as follows:

First: Three persons earlier entered Tunisia with forged papers to prepare for the operation and assist the terrorist group.

Second: The vehicles were rented using the forged papers.

Third: Traces of footprints were found on the beach toward these vehicles, both entering and departing.

Fourth: The aircraft was near Tunisian airspace at the time of the incident, and we have been informed that neighboring countries had recorded its suspicious presence.

Fifth: Telephone and radio communications were jammed to cover up the operation, timed exactly from beginning to end.

Sixth: The vehicles left on the shore and the footprints leading toward the sea confirm that the commandos came via the sea and left Tunisian territory the same way.

The statements of the Israeli officials clearly indicate their responsibility for their terrorist operation. Ari'el Sharon, member of the Israeli Government, stated on 18 April while commenting on the assassination of Abu Jihad, that 2 years ago he was repeatedly calling for the liquidation of what he called leaders of terrorist organizations.

Also Refa'el Eytan, an Israeli military commander, has stated to IDF radio that Abu Jihad was one of the four principal targets for liquidation by Israeli intelligence.

In addition, the international media and experts on terrorism, including Israeli ones, are unanimous in saying that the operation is similar in every way to previous operations carried out by Israel against Palestinian officials. However, the Israeli authorities have tried to retract their preliminary statements in a hesitant, perplexed manner which cannot be believed except by those who want to go along with them and ignore the facts. This occurred when Israel realized the gravity of the incident and its negative effect on international public opinion, which in itself constitutes additional proof of guilt.

Therefore, Tunisia, a hospitable and open country which enjoys a peaceful open society, again finds itself exposed to the state terrorism arrogantly practiced by Israel.

There is information from various sources, especially from trustworthy international news agencies which are known for their contacts with Israeli authorities—information and statements that leave no room for doubt—that the Israeli operation was indeed carried out by Israel and planned in an Israeli style.

In this respect we need cite only AFP and REUTER, and among the newspapers we refer only to LE MONDE and TIME magazine, and we mention in particular NBC Television. They are all trustworthy and enjoy international credibility, and they all stress that their sources are official Israeli sources close to the army and government and even to the military censorship authorities.

This was confirmed by the fact that Israeli Prime Minister Shamir quickly sent a congratulatory cable to the terrorists for the success of the operation. Ezer Weizman, the Israeli minister and member of the Inner Cabinet, on the other hand, strongly criticized the assassination of Abu Jihad in a statement on 19 April. This is a further clear admission of what happened. Is not admission the strongest evidence, as the jurists say?

In addition to that, LE MONDE and a (?CBS) correspondent have stressed that they obtained information from Israeli official sources that the assassination was a joint operation between Israeli intelligence—Mosad—and the Army, in accordance with a resolution of the Israeli Government itself.

Other well informed sources, which we have not yet verified, added that the operation was officially adopted after a vote in the Israeli Knesset, and was opposed by Weizman and Peres.

Isn't all this evidence, the proof and the admissions, enough to put the responsibility for committing this terrorist operation on the shoulders of Israel and its authorities? The reactions and statements of the Israeli officials remind us of the proverb: The guilty man has guilt written on his face.

In this situation attempts to save Israel from the accusation require a huge amount of good intentions and disregard of facts. We hope that this will not be considered a green light for Israel to continue political assassination, commit terrorist acts, and violate the integrity and sovereignty of other countries.

Because of these considerations, the Tunisian Government asks the UN Security Council to investigate the situation resulting from this new premeditated aggression against the security and safety of Tunisia, and calls for a clear and strong condemnation of Israeli state terrorism, and for the adoption of the necessary measures to stop its renewal.

As Tunisia does this, it would like to recall that this is not the first time Tunisia has been exposed to Israeli terrorist practices, and that this danger will remain as long as the Security Council does not adopt firm and deterrent measures to put an end to it.

Mr Chairman, Tunisia, which in its new era dedicates all its energy to establishing democracy, a state of law, and basic rights for individuals and groups, and to pushing forward the march of progress, strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms, whatever the justifications and excuses.

This is not only because Tunisia is exposed to terrorist practices, but because such a stance constitutes a basic principle and a civilized, ethical element of its foreign policy.

It is a stance that Tunisia shares with all peace-loving countries that are committed to respecting international traditions and treaties.

Your honorable Council, because of its international responsibility and moral authority, is called on to condemn political assassination and Israeli state terrorism and its violation of my country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Foreign Minister Describes U.S. Talks

PM211219 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
15 Apr 88 p 26

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not specified]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: What have you been discussing with U.S. officials?

Mestiri: There are bilateral issues between us and the Americans and a historical relationship binding since 1956, and even before that; and our relations with the United States are continuing, embracing all aspects of life. We have various bilateral issues, especially economic aid in its various aspects such as in food and agriculture. We have discussed all these matters, which, naturally, have taken up up a great deal of the time devoted to the negotiations. We have talked about issues of concern to both sides, particularly the Arab issues, and especially the uprising.

AL-HAWADITH: Did you ask for weapons?

Mestiri: No, because our requests are in the technical field and the means of finance, because of the accumulation of debts. In fact, we have a problem regarding military debts. So we did not talk about the matter of increasing military assistance, which is out of the question at present.

AL-HAWADITH: When you were discussing the Arab Maghreb, did you discuss relations with Libya?

Mestiri: It is natural that they have their views and we have ours. Our views and analyses agree on some things and differ on others. The Americans will always have doubts concerning Libya and the Libyan leadership's behavior, especially on the issue of terrorism.

Our approach is different, one which is based on being neighbors. Our responsibilities are not international but regional and Libya is an inseparable part of the Arab world.

It is in the interests of Tunisia and Libya to have good and reasonable relations—something we pointed out to the Americans; and we added that we are moving in this direction.

The Americans respect Tunisia's sovereignty and independence. There is no problem regarding our relations and conduct with Libya. Moreover, they acknowledge that we know the region better than they do and, naturally, we care more than anyone else about Tunisia's interests.

AL-HAWADITH: Tunisia is host to the PLO. Have the Americans asked you to play any role with the PLO, for any purpose?

Mestiri: No. We have not been asked to play any role. Naturally, the Americans are continuing their efforts to promote the Shultz plan. In addition, they have contacted the Palestinians through American Palestinians.

I have asked Shultz directly about the meeting, and he said that he regarded it as extremely positive and that he benefited greatly from it. He also told me that there is scope for progress in other steps:

So long as his plan is not rejected—even if it is not accepted—then there is hope for progress; and Shultz, in this regard, described himself as stubborn and determined to move forward.

AL-HAWADITH: Have you conveyed to Shultz Tunisia's position on his initiative?

Mestiri: Naturally. Our position regarding the U.S. initiative is a joint Arab position. What I said to him reflected an analysis of what is positive about the plan and what is negative.

The negative aspect is clear, namely the exclusion of the PLO and the lack of any mention of the right to an independent Palestinian state.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the international conference, as conceived by Shultz in his plan? Did you have any reservations in this regard?

Mestiri: There is an opening up in attitudes to an international conference, even though the American concept differs from our own. It seems to me—this is our belief in Tunisia—that if an international conference were to be held, even if it were incomplete, it would end up as a full-fledged international conference.

AL-HAWADITH: You said a while ago that Shultz is bent on carrying forward his plan and convincing the states concerned to accept it. What about Soviet reservations? What has Shultz said to you about their significance and the possibility of resolving current differences?

Mestiri: He said that talks with the Soviets are continuing, and he added that they do not regard the Soviet position as an outright rejection. He also said that the Soviet concept differs from that of the Americans, but there is the possibility of securing a settlement acceptable to the sides concerned, including the Soviet side.

AL-HAWADITH: In your meeting with the UN secretary general, did talks focus on the uprising and the international conference?

Mestiri: We discussed the uprising, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Western Sahara. The secretary general gave me his analysis and assessment of the situation concerning the three issues and what the United Nations can do to help in settling them.

Of course, the secretary general had heard from the Arab delegation a day before I met with him. He has listened to it with great interest. I have found that he has been influenced by events in the occupied territories; and he is ready to do what is required of him by the Security Council.

AL-HAWADITH: How far have the secretary general's efforts reached with regard to the Western Sahara?

Mestiri: He is continuing his efforts. He may not be optimistic, but he thinks that, with resolution and perseverance, a result can be achieved.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the fate of the Arab summit in support of the uprising in the occupied territories? What does the summit want to achieve?

Mestiri: The principle on which to hold the summit has been agreed, but the date and venue are still to be negotiated.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Tunis 21 Apr
*JN220917 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
22 Apr 88 p 14*

[Text] Tunis—QNA—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Tunis from Tripoli yesterday at the end of a brief visit to Libya during which he held talks with Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

These talks have focused on developments in the Palestine question in light of the escalating uprising being waged by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the Zionist terrorist operation killing the Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir, and the current Arab situation.

Libya's Al-Humaydi Concludes Visit 21 Apr
*LD211929 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland
in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Apr 88*

[Text] This evening, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi concluded a 3-day visit to fraternal Tunisia, during which he conveyed a message from the brother leader of the revolution to his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi left Carthage International Airport, where he was seen off by Brother Habib Ammar, the Tunisian interior minister, a number of senior Tunisian Government and party officials, and the staff of the permanent mission of the Great Jamahiriyah to the Arab League.

Western Sahara

Joint UN-OAU Mission Visits Refugee Camps

Zambia's Kaunda Tours Camps

PM201124 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 15-16 Apr 88 pp 2-3

[APS report: "A Warm Welcome From the People"]

[Excerpt] Dr Kenneth Kaunda, OAU chairman and Zambian head of state, began a 24-hour working visit to Saharan refugee camps on Thursday for talks with the Saharan leaders in connection with the joint UN-OAU mission for the implementation of the West Sahara peace plan.

This visit follows the OAU chairman's visit to Morocco, where he had talks with the Moroccan king, and the coordination meeting which he had in Brussels recently with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the implementation of the UN and OAU resolutions on the West Sahara in light of the UN-OAU technical commission's visit under the leadership of Abderrahim Farah, UN under secretary general for special political questions, to the territories at the the end of 1987.

President Kaunda, who had a meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid on Thursday, had private talks in the evening with President Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR and secretary general of the Polisario—a meeting which was then expanded to include members of the Saharan delegation headed by Mr Abdelaziz which comprised Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed, Bachir Mustapha Seyyed, Mohamed Lamine Ould El Boulhali, and Mahfoud Ali Baiba, all members of the Polisario Executive Committee and respectively SDAR prime minister, head of the Polisario permanent secretariat, head of the military region, and head of Polisario foreign relations, and Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, member of the Polisario political office, and secretary general of the SDAR president's office. President Kaunda is heading a delegation comprising Zambian officials, UN Under Secretary for Special Political Questions Abderrahim Farah, UN Under Secretary General for Political Questions Tedessa Yelma, and Ayssa Diallo, Javier Perez de Cuellar's private secretary.

These talks were followed by an official dinner in President Kaunda's honor during which the Saharan people's guest and President Abdelaziz exchanged speeches.

Before that dinner, the OAU chairman, who made a stopover in Tindouf, was given an official reception in Smara—one of the Saharan refugee camps.

He was given an exceptionally warm welcome. President Kaunda is the second African head of state to visit the Saharan people, the first being the late President Sankara. [passage omitted]

Requests Moroccan Withdrawal

LD200233 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Western Sahara—The joint UN-OAU delegation led by President Kaunda has asked the King of Morocco to withdraw his troops and administration from the territory in order for the referendum on self-determination to be prepared and organized. [passage omitted]

The secretary general of the Saharan presidency, Mr Ould Sadek, mentioned the tour by the UN-OAU mission at a press conference today. On this occasion, he spoke about the need for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front. [passage omitted]

'Foreign Minister' Omar Visits Peru, Columbia

For reports on Foreign Minister Mansour Omar's visit to Peru, including his meetings with government officials, see the Peru subsection of the South America section of the 20 April Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Intra-Gulf

Netherlands Minesweeper Deactivates Mine
LD211149 Hilversum International Service in English 1130 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Two Dutch minehunters in the Persian Gulf have deactivated another mine. It was the fifth such device found in less than 1 week. The Dutch minehunters are operating off the coast of Bahrain.

Kuwait

KUNA Accuses Israel of 'Ferocious Onslaught'
LD172000 Kuwait KUNA in English 1911 GMT 17 Apr 88

["Hijack—Analysis"—KUNA headline]

[Text] Kuwait, April 17 (KUNA)—The recent succession of bloody events in the Arab world, starting with the criminal hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, to the ugly assassination of Palestinian leader Khalil al-Wazir and the car bomb explosion in the Jordanian capital are omens of a plot to plunge the Arab nation into disarray and chaos.

A reading of the Arab political map before the three major events affirmed that Arab conciliations and solidarity had been felt throughout much of the Arab world, ending a long decade of feuds that encouraged foreign aggressions on Arab interests and territory.

The new trilateral onslaught came at a time the Arab world had begun reaping the benefits of the concord that characterized inter-Arab political relations on the heels of the fifth Islamic summit held in Kuwait January, 1987 and the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman last November.

The two summits enhanced prospects for ending the Iran-Iraq war in a way that safeguards the safety and territorial integrity of sisterly Iraq, and increased international support for holding a U.N.-sponsored peace conference on the Mideast attended by the PLO, the legitimate spokesman of the Palestinian people.

Prior to the new spate of aggressions, there was a marked improvement in military, economic and financial relations between Arab states over the past few months that contributed to Arab political and economic security.

A prime outcome of the new chapter in Arab relations was the outbreak, last December 8, of the Palestinian popular uprising to challenge the untenable status quo imposed by the Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Besides sending shudders into the Zionist entity, the uprising has provided ammunition to supporters of the international peace conference who put new pressures to reverse the Zionist entity's blind rejection of Arab peace calls.

The protracted upheaval lent urgency to the need for a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian problem that would fulfil the right to self determination and the setting up of an independent state.

It could be said that the new political realities in the West Bank and Gaza have triggered the Reagan administration's new peace proposal for the Arab-Israeli conflict known as the Shultz plan, which was nothing but an attempt to lessen Palestinian and international pressure on Israel to end its occupation of Arab land.

Because no Arab capital accepted the Shultz plan in its entirety, Washington had to consider other alternatives to curb the ruinous effects of the continuing Palestinian uprising on Israeli economy and existence of the Zionist entity.

The Israeli Army is spending 115 million dollars a month to quell the uprising, which is depriving the Israeli economy from 100 million dollars a month as less foreign tourists visit occupied Palestine.

Having been pinned down by the rising wave of Palestinian protests, the Zionist entity became desperate for a way out of its steep quagmire and resorted to terrorist activities designed to destabilize the Arab world and distract attention from the uprising.

The 16-day skyjacking of the Kuwaiti jet during a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait, the Saturday dawn raid on the Tunis house of the late Khalil al-Wazir and the car bomb blast shortly afterwards in the Jordanian capital were nothing but the links in the chain of Israeli terrorism against the Arab world.

Israel's ferocious onslaught on the Arab world would undoubtedly strengthen Arab determination to uproot Tel Aviv's aggressive and draconian policies.

Oman

Minister Leaves for Kuwait With Qabus Message
JN211441 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] His Excellency Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib, interior minister, left the country for fraternal Kuwait this afternoon carrying a verbal message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Asabah.

The message carries his majesty's congratulations on the end of the Kuwaiti airliner hostage ordeal, as well as his majesty's joint happiness with the Kuwaiti people.

PDRY

YSP Leadership Discusses Yemeni Unity

EA211701 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2245 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] The YSP Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat held a joint meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to discuss issues submitted for the 12th session of the Central Committee scheduled to be held in the next few days.

The participants discussed a report on the summit meeting between Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid, and his brother, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the northern part of the homeland.

It praised the historic importance of this meeting and its positive results, which reinforce the trust between the leaderships of the two parts in dealing with all issues—including the joint economic project between the two parts—through activation of the existing unionist bodies; namely, the Supreme Yemeni Council, the Ministerial Committee, the Secretariat and the Unity Committee. The meeting stressed the importance of continuing their meetings in the near future.

The summit meeting emphasized the consolidation and continuation of the peaceful dialogue between the leaderships of the two parts to discuss and deal with issues connected with unionist work and with the life and future of the Yemeni masses.

It also emphasized adherence to the supreme interests of the Yemeni people, which necessitates the creation of a peaceful and stable atmosphere and circumstances for our people, without any friction between the two parts of Yemen, while at the same time defending the sovereignty of Yemeni territories against the machinations of the enemies of the people.

YSP's Muhsin Returns From Visit to Mozambique

EA211940 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] A YSP delegation, led by Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary, returned to Aden at dawn today after concluding its 8-day official and cordial visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique.

During the visit he met Comrade Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Frelimo Party and of the Socialist Republic of Mozambique, and handed him a message from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee. It concerned ways of strengthening bilateral relations between the two friendly parties and peoples.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY following his return, Brother Muhsin said the official discussions between the delegations of the two parties centered on bilateral relations and ways of developing them.

The two sides expressed their gratification with the growth in these relations. He pointed out the meetings had culminated in the signing of a cooperation agreement between the YSP and the Frelimo Party for 1988-89.

A youth protocol was also signed between the Fatah Youths Yemeni Socialist Union and the Mozambican Youth [as heard].

At the end of his statement, Brother Muhsin expressed his gratification concerning the visit, which was an important factor in reinforcing the relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two friendly countries. A joint communique has been issued on the [words indistinct] of this visit.

Navy Commander Receives Soviet Military Official

EA212017 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Admiral Sidorov, deputy commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, arrived in Aden this evening for an official visit to the PDRY lasting several days.

Comrade Sidorov told ANA that his visit was within the framework of strengthening the warm relations linking the armed forces of the two countries. He clarified that during the visit he would discuss with Naval Command officials cooperation between the two sides and issues of common interest.

On arrival he was received by Naval Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Qasim Salih, commander of the Naval Forces, and a number of Navy military and political officials.

Saudi Arabia

AL-YAWM Terms Assassination 'Zionist Profession'

JN191430 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
17 Apr 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Assassination Is a Zionist Profession"]

[Text] Tel Aviv rulers, who are used to treachery and terrorism, have always been behind the many crimes against the Palestinian people, whether inside or outside occupied Palestine.

The recourse of the Tel Aviv criminals to the most horrible methods to carry out their crimes is something the entire world has experienced through numerous unconcealable practices. People in the Western world have clearly seen the brutal oppressive measures perpetrated by the occupation army.

Physical liquidation is only one of the devious methods adopted by the Tel Aviv rulers to realize their expansionist dreams. The martyrdom of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] in a criminal operation by the Zionists comes within this policy.

The crime calls to mind memories of an ugly series of assassinations of Palestinian leaders. We remember the criminal assassination in Beirut in April 1972 of the three Palestinian leaders Abu Yusuf (Muhammad al-Najjar) and Kamal Nasir, PLO Executive Committee members, and Kamal 'Udwan, Fatah Central Committee member.

The Zionist hand of treachery also assassinated PLO spokesman Majid Abu Sharar in Rome. There has been a series of criminal operations and assassinations carried out by the Zionists in various places. This also was not the first attempt on Abu Jihad's life.

When Tel Aviv criminals carry out their crimes, they feel no remorse. Their rancorous and bloodthirsty desire for liquidating Palestinian leaders has blinded them from many facts, one of which is that the Palestinian retaliation will not be weak. The Zionists will be punished for their crimes against the Arab people in occupied Palestine.

Assassination has become a Zionist profession in which Tel Aviv rulers take pride. They also take pride in the numerous crimes they perpetrated against the Palestinians.

United Arab Emirates

Official Conveys Memorandum to Iranian Envoy

JN212110 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2055 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Apr (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, under secretary of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met this evening with Mostafa Haeri-Fumani, Iranian ambassador to the UAE.

During the meeting, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid conveyed to the Iranian ambassador an official memorandum from the UAE to the Iranian Government. WAM said the memorandum pertains to bilateral relations and current developments in the Gulf region.

AL-ITTIHAD Urges End to Iraq-Iran Conflict

JN210937 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Apr 88 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The direct U.S.-Iranian confrontation in the Gulf shows once again how serious developments in the region are. This confrontation also indicates the urgent need for a swift move on all international levels to restore security and stability to the Gulf so it can regain its natural and civilized role as a major passageway in the world.

This confrontation has largely demonstrated the seriousness of the foreign military presence in the Gulf waters. It has also affirmed that the Gulf war, which was the direct reason for this presence, should stop, especially since all indicators show its continuation will only lead to more squandering of the human and material resources of the two countries, Iraq and Iran.

These two countries have no option but to reach a solution within the framework of peaceful coexistance based on goodneighborliness between two Islamic countries with much in common.

The war's development has affirmed that a military solution to the conflict is impossible. This fact makes continuing the war a very costly venture. Hit-and-run operations always result in the fall of thousands of victims.

In an earlier stage of the war, Iran occupied the Al-Faw peninsula resulting in large human and material losses. The Iraqi Army yesterday liberated and recaptured the Al-Faw area. This time too thousands of victims fell and major losses occurred.

Iraq has regained its territories in Al-Faw and at the same time is affirming its readiness to stop the war. Now both countries have Security Council Resolution No 598 which achieves this objective.

Recent developments should force the two sides to end the war peacefully before it spreads to other areas and threatens world peace, security, and stability.

AL-ITTIHAD on U.S.-Iranian Confrontation

JN211847 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Apr 88 p 5

[Untitled article by Yusuf al-Khatir within the "Behind the Events" column]

[Text] The direct U.S.-Iranian military confrontation in the Gulf has come to herald further serious developments in the region in the next period. These serious developments will only be at the expense of the region's security and stability.

This has become clear through this U.S.-Iranian confrontation in which U.S. ships shelled six Iranian warships and two oil platforms and the Iranian gunboats attacked a tanker, a ship, and a platform in the "Mubarak" field.

Observers believe the U.S. attack on Iranian installations was a reply after a U.S. warship recently hit a mine in the Gulf and a new U.S. attempt to demonstrate its power and military presence in Gulf waters.

This is also a new U.S. attempt to exert pressure with the objective of intensifying its military presence in the region and of proving it is the only military force capable of confronting any emergency.

In light of this, observers do not rule out the escalation of confrontation between Iran and the United States within the next few days whether directly or indirectly. This would introduce changes in some stands and events.

In light of this situation, we point out the United States is still playing a dangerous game in the Gulf on the pretext of protecting navigation and that confrontation with Tehran is only a prelude to further developments.

This proves that the U.S. presence in the region constitutes the major danger because Washington only pays attention to maintaining its interests there.

An alternative to this situation is to emphasize the principle of strategic balance in the region and to intensify international efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the war, to restore peaceful coexistence among the region's states, and to stop the exhaustion of the human and material resources of Iraq, Iran, and the region.

Let us be certain the United States only seeks the continuation and escalation of the war with the objective of imposing its influence on the region. Will the Arabs move on this basis to protect pan-Arab security?

Yemen Arab Republic

President Briefs Officials on Unity Efforts

JN211835 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today chaired a joint meeting by the Consultative Council and the General Committee.

After opening the meeting in the name of God and the people, the brother president acquainted the conferees with the results of the regular summit meeting held between brothers Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland.

The summit meeting was held at the beginning of this week in Ta'izz. A number of senior officials in the two parts of the homeland took part in this meeting.

The conferees expressed satisfaction with the positive results that came within the unity efforts between the two parts and within the framework of responsible eagerness toward continuing unity efforts through peaceful and democratic dialogue.

The conferees affirmed the importance of brotherly meetings between the two parts as a means to consolidate the spirit of understanding and brotherly dialogue, to find an appropriate atmosphere for unity steps, and to tackle all that is related to the homeland's issues.

They also said these meetings can be used to overcome all that would obstruct the tackling or containing of these issues and avert from our homeland any harm and all that would distort unity efforts and their honesty within an atmosphere of stability and cooperation.

This is to eliminate the elements of division inherited by our Yemeni homeland from the imam's and colonialist systems. Our masses in the entire homeland are struggling to overcome this inheritance and achieve Yemeni unity because it is the most important strategic objective of the 26 September revolution and the 14 October revolution and the guarantee for pressing ahead with the people's aspirations for progress and development.

During the meeting, the leader president affirmed our leadership's complete and sincere adherence to continuing unity efforts in cooperation with our brothers in the southern part of the homeland to reach this noble objective of the Yemeni people.

The meeting was attended by Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity efforts and Standing Committee member.

Yemeni Unity Seen Within 'Next 3 Months'

JN211759 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that during the Yemeni summit between YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid of the PDRY an agreement was reached on a timetable for proclaiming unity between the two parts of Yemen within the next 3 months.

AL-ITTIHAD's private sources in Sanaa assert that the minutes of the summit meeting included a comprehensive agreement on all bilateral issues under discussion. In particular, the minutes stipulate instructing the ministers of unity in the two parts of Yemen to refer the union's draft constitution to the people's assemblies in the two countries for approval in special sessions to be held for this purpose.

A popular referendum will then be held on this constitution in both parts of Yemen simultaneously.

Saddam Terms Al-Faw Victory 'New Beginning'

JN211933 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has warned the Iranian enemy that it will face setbacks it will greatly regret because it did not end the war under the appropriate circumstances.

Commenting on Iran's haphazard reactions after the liberation of Al-Faw, the president said: The Iranian rulers are no longer able to frighten a child in Basra.

The president challenged them by saying: Let them mount operations on 10 fronts. The president emphasized the Iraqis' confidence in final victory.

The president was speaking during a ceremony to decorate Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense Forces, with the Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah Medal, Second Class, today.

Addressing the officers present on the occasion, the president said: Not only you and the Iraqi people are happy. All of your Arab brothers, with a few negligible exceptions, are happy. It is indeed significant that the Arabs should consider Al-Faw battle to be their own, and in fact it is their own battle.

The president added: We believe it is so. We believe the Arab land is one, its value is the same, and its basic standards [qiyasatuha al-mabda'iyah] are the same. However, it is very significant for the Arab majority to believe so.

The president said: When the commander is honored, he should first remember the martyrs. He should realize that every martyr has a share in this medal we hang on his chest. He should know that each honorable fighter has a share in this medal as well as in the honor being bestowed on him.

He said: The commander should remain levelheaded when he is honored, when he deals with the authorities, when he deals with money, and when he is confronted with worldly temptations.

The president said: Our self confidence was high after the invaders occupied Al-Faw. We calculated and worked day and night, studying our experiment and training our Armed Forces. However, our self confidence was high. We believed that we should triumph because we could not afford not to triumph.

The president added: This was not our desire but the will of the Iraqi people, the will of history, and God. We were bound to triumph if we really and deeply believed that God was with us, that the people were with us, and that those with living conscience were with us.

Speaking about the Presidential Guard Force formation, the president said: The Presidential Guard Force is now the biggest Army corps in the Iraqi Army and you are aware of the level of its performance.

His excellency asserted that the Iraqi sacrifices during the 35-hour battle to liberate Al-Faw were small compared with this great achievement. He noted that during these battles both the Presidential Guard Force and the VII Army Corps suffered very limited sacrifices.

He added that the Iraqi fighters drove the invading occupiers into the sea. Some of them were killed, some captured, some drowned, and some fled, leaving our territory to fall back into our hands.

The president denounced the Iranian rulers' haphazard actions following the liberation of Al-Faw and said: They are attacking the Americans, the UAE, and the British. They are sending their planes to hit any ship within their sight regardless of its ownership.

The president described these actions as mad, reflecting imbalance. He said that with this behavior, they show that they do not want to deal with the contemporary world reasonably and logically to serve their people and reduce the number of their casualties. They are finishing their people by sending them to die.

The president said: My happiness with the liberation of Al-Faw equals my happiness with the steadfastness of the Kuwaitis against pressure. The president noted that Kuwait is a not the biggest Arab country and its populatuion is not the greatest but during the past 2 years in particular, it has been undergoing many pressures such as the hijacking problem and the presence of two or three members of the Shaykh Jabir family among the hostages. But the Kuwaitis rejected blackmail.

The president asserted that this is a new beginning for the Arabs. The Arab now stands proud and firm against pressure and blackmail and all evil and illegitimate attempts.

He added: Arabs do not commit aggression against anybody. They respect the rights of others and are prepared to defend them as their own. God willing, all these phenomena are positive and everything bodes well and shows a better future for the Arabs and not only for the Iraqis.

Air Force Commander Speaks at News Conference

JN202045 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] The commander of the Air Force and Air Defenses has affirmed that leader President Saddam Husayn's special care for the Air Force is among the most important reasons for its success in carrying out its duties with high efficiency.

At a press conference held on the heroic Air Force's 57th anniversary, the commander said that the "Blessed Ramadan" battle during which the city of Al-Faw was liberated from Khomeyniite invaders has clearly demonstrated Iraq's enormous military capabilities to the world on both the planning and field levels among all ground, naval, and air corps.

He added that this battle, toward which the Air Force contributed effectively, has embodied a high and splendid coordination among the Armed Forces corps in accordance with an accurate plan that will continue to be an object of interest for world military institutions.

He affirmed that the Air Force will continue to destroy the remainder of the enemy's vital economic installations both deep inside Iran and in the Arabian Gulf.

He said the Air Force will decide any battle with the enemy more strongly and with modern, sophisticated weapons from the production of the military industries organization.

He added that the growing capabilities of our Air Force have consolidated their capabilities and given them the upper hand in destroying the enemy's weapons and scoundrels with devastating blows.

The commander of the Air Force and Air Defenses referred to the effect of recent successful air raids on oil supertanker assembly areas near Khark Island, the destruction of anchorages and tankers there, and the killing of a large number of technicians and salesmen.

He described the raid as one of the greatest achievements of the Air Force on both the planning and executive levels. He said this affirmed the Iraqi hawks' ability to reach any target regardless of the defenses provided for it. He explained that the growth of the Iraqi Air Force's capabilities, the distances it has reached, and the targets it has attacked have aroused the Zionist enemy's concern.

On Iraq's production of Al-Husayn missiles, he said these missiles have given the Air Force greater flexibility and additional momentum.

The commander of the Air Force and Air Defenses discussed the remainder of the enemy air force. He affirmed that its attempts to attack civilian Iraqi targets, especially border villages and cities, are a reflection of its defeats and inability to confront Iraq's hawks. The press conference was attended by INA and local newspapers correspondents.

President Receives 'Arafat Cable on Al-Wazir

JN211050 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 21, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a cable of thanks from Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Mr. Yasir 'Arafat in reply to the cable of condolences sent by President Husayn on the occasion of martyrdom of Mr. Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, deputy commander-in-chief of forces of the Palestinian revolution.

Mr. 'Arafat expressed to President Husayn, to the Iraqi Government, the people of Iraq and strugglers of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, on behalf of the Palestinian Arab people, members of the Executive Committee of the (PLO), the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, and on his own behalf deep thanks and appreciation for sincere fraternal condolences sent on the occasion of martyrdom of Abu Jihad, who was assassinated by criminal gangs of Zionism.

Mr. 'Arafat said "It is a relief for us that Abu Jihad has left behind him a rich, indepletable militant heritage from which revolutionary generations are to learn until victory is acheived."

This heinous crime against Abu Jihad, Mr. 'Arafat added, aimed at liquidating uprising of the struggling Palestinian people and frustrating it, yet, Mr. 'Arafat said, "our people in and outside occupied Palestine are determined not to let this crime pass with impunity...This hideous crime would further our people's resolve to go ahead along the road of freedom and victory till our banner and those of the Arab nation are seen fluttering high above holy Jerusalem, capital of our independent state."

Mr. 'Arafat said that with the pre-mature martyrdom of Abu Jihad the Palestinian revolution lost an outstanding leader and a firm struggler who devoted his life for service of the nation and defence of its causes.

Mr. 'Arafat added "We implore the Almighty God to shower His mercy on Abu Jihad and those who met martyrdom with him, to guide steps of our nation and enable it to achieve victory over its enemies, as the battle in defence of our glorious Arab nation is one from Gaza to Basra."

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,153

JN211734 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,153 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Our Air Force inflicted important losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on the enemy through 97 combat missions in the operations sectors today. All our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. The brave helicopter gunships carried out 75 combat missions in which they inflicted further losses in personnel, equipment, and vehicles on the aggressors. Our pilots returned with their helicopters safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed 66 scoundrels, destroyed 2 infantry positions and a vehicle, and blew up 4 ammunition dumps.

4. Two infantry positions were destroyed and their personnel killed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—and an ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. The criminal Iranian enemy shelled residential areas in the city of Al-Qurnah with missiles. The incident martyred and wounded several civilians including women and children and damaged several houses and shops. May God have mercy on our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 April 1988

Navy Sinks 'Medium War Target'

JN220802 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0752 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 22 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0720 [0320 GMT] today, our naval forces sighted a medium war target. It dealt the target a direct hit, completely destroying it and sinking it with all the rogues who were on board. May God bless you, O courageous men of the naval force.

[Dated] 22 April 1988

Paper Comments on Cities War Moratorium

JN221211 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 22, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-QADISIYAH said that Iraq's decision to stop shelling the Iranian cities since the midnight of April 20-21 expressed the sincere wish of Iraq to save the civilians from the dangers of armed confrontation.

The daily, published by the Iraqi Defence Ministry said in its editorial that the decision taken by Iraq to halt shelling the cities on condition that Iran should abide by the five principles proposed by Iraq on March 10 last stresses Iraq's capability to deter destructively if the Iranian regime violates any one of the five principles.

The five principles include that the last hit must be by Iraq and that Iran should stop shelling the cities and should not launch any offensive on the axes leading to the cities and that Iran should not attack any Arab city and finally there must be deferention [as received] between civilian targets and economic targets related to war efforts.

AL-QADISIYAH daily went on to say that this chance is offered by Iraq at a time it exercised strategic and field capability in liberating Al-Faw in a record time after two years of occupation and despite the Iranian mobilizations and equipment there.

The Iraqi newspaper stressed that Iraq's call on the Iranian regime to establish peace and stop shelling its towns stems from the rules of Islam and humanitarian principles as well as laws and norms and it is not out of other considerations imagined by the Iranian rulers.

AL-QADISIYAH paper added that Iraq proved that it is victorious in all battles and fields and it has the superiority to hit and destroy Iran's oil and economic vital installations.

Iraq also proved that it has the superiority to deter the Iranian regime and devastate its cities with the Iraqi-made Al-Husayn missiles, the daily said.

AL-QADISIYAH newspaper said that Iraq responded to the international peace initiative to end the war including the UN Security Council Resolution No. 598. If the Iranian rulers think that these initiatives are stemmed from weakness, Iraq would not permit this pass without showing the Iranian rulers the most destructive round and devastating deterrence.

Air Force Raids Jibril Targets in Lebanon

TA221610 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets north of Sidon this afternoon. All our aircraft returned safely and the pilots reported destroying the targets.

The IDF spokesman reported that headquarters as well as weapons and ammunition depots belonging to the terrorist organizations were raided.

Beirut radio stations have reported that there were two sorties and that installations run by Ahmad Jibril's organization in Al-Damur and Al-Na'imah were attacked. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that the area is controlled by the Druze, whose sources maintain that the terrorists sustained casualties.

Tamir Expects Agreement on Shultz Plan in Moscow

TA221339 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir is convinced that during Secretary of State Shultz' talks in Moscow, an understanding will be reached between the United States and the Soviet Union on the Shultz initiative. He is further convinced that no Arab side will foil this initiative.

Mr Tamir believes that a 2-day international conference can be held by mid-May. He said that although he regrets the absence of Egyptian officials from the reception on Israel's Independence Day, this is but one phenomenon within the overall framework of Israel's difficulties all over the world in light of the events of the last few months in the territories. We have seen visits and speeches canceled, and receptions held with diminished attendance. Mr Tamir believes that the only way to get out of this situation is by launching a peace process.

'Major Shift' Seen in Soviet Middle East Policy

TA221017 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Apr 88 pp 1, 17

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev and agencies]

[Text] As U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze meet in Moscow to discuss the coming superpower summit, officials in Jerusalem say there are increasing indications that the Soviets are on the verge of undertaking a major shift in their attitude toward the Middle East.

The Soviets plan to strike a much higher profile in their Middle East dealings, and various sources, including government researchers, say that a new Soviet initiative on the Middle East may very well include a dramatic visit by Shevardnadze to Israel.

The Soviet ambassador to Egypt, Gennadiy Zhuravlev, said on Wedenesday that Shevardnadze has accepted an invitation to visit, Egypt, but gave no dates for the visit.

Last week the Soviet ambassador to Amman announced that his foreign minister would be visiting Jordan "soon." A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman told THE JERUSALEM POST this week that Shevardnadze has yet to formulate a "precise plan" for visiting the Middle East.

Officials in Jerusalem regard the Middle East chapter of the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks as "critical" to the U.S. peace initiative, which appears to be floundering in the Middle East itself.

The main focus of the regional talks between the two foreign ministers was expected to be the Gulf war and the Middle East. Shultz has included Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the State Department's top official for the Middle East, in his entourage to Moscow.

Sources in Jerusalem say that the projected Soviet focus on the Middle East, which comes in the wake of the signing last week in Geneva of the Afghan accords, will include its agreement for a "non-authoritarian" international conference. Such a shift in the Soviet position would bring its view of the conference close to that envisaged in the Shultz plan, and would sharply improve its chances of being accepted by Jordan.

The sources have also noted Gorbachev's demand to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat to recognize Israel. Although such recognition does not constitute a change in Soviet policy, the sources said, Gorbachev's espousal of it in his meeting with 'Arafat does.

The details of the new Soviet Middle East push, the sources said, do not appear to have been finalized. However, the Soviets are apparently moved primarily by the desire to improve relations with the U.S. and achieve a diplomatic status in the area similar to that of the U.S.

Peres Views U.S. Memo, Al-Wazir, UN Debate

TA220716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Arye Golan and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Prime Minister Shamir has scored success on two counts: He has gently rejected the Shultz initiative and he has also signed a historic memorandum of understanding with the United States. So, what is wrong?

[Peres] You said that. I did not say anything was wrong with it.

[Golan] I am asking whether it is good or bad.

[Peres] The memorandum is good, but the fundamental question remains our relations with the Arab countries and how to make sure that Israel remains a democratic Jewish state. On this issue, I am not sure that the United States agrees with all the opinions prevalent in Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you referring, sir, to the episode entitled the peace process?

[Peres] I am not referring to an episode, but to the main topic on our agenda. If the peace process were to come to an end, it would be followed by other processes, not a vacuum.

[Ben-'Ami] This morning, 22 April, we are entering our 41st year of independence. Based on what you have been hearing about the meetings taking place today in Moscow and the position of your so-called partners to the promotion of this process, do you think we are on the verge of a new process?

[Peres] I think all of us must humbly admit that we are not the ones who determine Moscow's or even Washington's policies. We can only set Israeli policy, and the situation here is that there is no decision. If a decision is not made, I see no chance of reviving the peace process.

Upon entering our 41st year of independence, we must make up our minds whether we want to take the initiative, despite all the difficulties involved. In various meetings I held yesterday people told me: Husayn is not interested, let him go on not being interested. Why should we be holier than Husayn?

It is up to us to state explicitly that we are ready for this, that, or the other. For instance, in the past Israel agreed to an international conference, so why should it go back on this decision? What will they do to us at such a conference? Israel has always been wise enough to seem to be leading the peace process, and I think this was always to its credit both in its own eyes and in those of the world.

[Golan] Let us talk about another issue on which a decision was made which you did not support—that is, the assassination of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. According to foreign publications....

[Peres, interrupting] Why do you believe every foreign publication? Why do you beat the drum for every nonsensical report that some American paper prints....

[Golan, interrupting] I think THE WASHINGTON POST is quite a respectable newspaper.

[Peres] That is what you think. The way I see it, it is making its own news on these issues.

[Golan] What is your reaction to Minister 'Ezer Weizman's comments and remarks that he thought this was not the time to deal with Abu Jihad?

[Peres] When I have something to add on this subject I will do so.

[Golan] I understand that we will not hear any new revelations from you on this issue.

[Peres] No, you will not.

[Ben-'Ami] Will you also not comment on the UN Security Council debate which Israel is boycotting?

[Peres] We decided not to take part in the debate because it is inconceivable that a few countries should put Israel on the defendant's bench. Israel does not have to sit on the defendant's bench.

[Golan] This is not the first time that Israel is placed on the defendant's bench by the United Nations. On the other hand, this is the first time that we have boycotted a debate.

[Peres] Even if this is not the first time we are put on the defendant's bench, we are entitled to refuse to sit there a first time. There is always a first time for everything. [passage omitted]

Peres on U.S. Memorandum Signing, Moscow Talks

TA221654 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent Me'ir Kohen on 22 April; place not given—in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—recorded]

[Text] [Kohen] Sir, what is your view of the significance—political, strategic, or otherwise—of the Israeli-U.S. memorandum of understanding?

[Peres] I am pleased that the memorandum of understanding was signed. It concludes a series of past agreements but leaves open questions about the future.

[Kohen] Sir, with the signing of the memorandum of understanding, the U.S. President called on the nations in the region to decide on the political issue and Secretary Shultz' initiative. How do you read the U.S. President's exhortation?

[Peres] It is not my job to interpret the U.S. President's statement. I, too, believe it is necessary to maintain a peace process in the Middle East and that Israel would do well to initiate and lead such a process.

[Kohen] In practical terms, does this announcement mean that Israel is required to make a decision on Secretary Shultz' initiative?

[Peres] There is no question that it signifies an unequivocal presidential backing for Secretary Shultz' move.

[Kohen] Sir, one final question: How do you assess the political developments in the region in view of the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting?

[Peres] We have not yet heard anything about the outcome of this meeting, although there is one issue from which one can deduce something—that is, Afghanistan. That was a serious regional conflict, but the two superpowers reached an agreement on how to resolve it in a positive fashion.

Arad: 'Unequivocal' Call To Support Shultz Plan

TA220734 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Israel's Ambassador in Washington Moshe Arad has said that the U.S. Administration will not be deterred in its efforts to promote the peace process in the Middle East. In an interview with our correspondent in Washington Shim'on Schiffer, the ambassador said that the White House's statements should be considered an unequivocal message calling on Israel to support the Shultz initiative.

Egyptian Ambassador Reacts To Al-Wazir Murder

TA221158 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Apr 88 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Reacting to the murder of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni said that violence engenders violence and that the murder might add fuel to the fire. This is not the way to solve the Palestinian problem, Basyuni said. It must be solved through negotiations. In his opinion, the political opportunity which could fundamentally settle the Palestinian problem should be taken advantage of, and the path of negotiations is the only hope for avoiding an escalation. If this opportunity is missed, violence might worsen, the Middle East might be thrown into a turmoil, and there could be war.

At the same time, the Egyptian ambassador said that if progress were made and violence were terminated, Abu Jihad's murder could accelerate the peace process. Ambassador Basyuni stressed in a talk with our correspondent that the uprising in the occupied territories is not the goal, the goal is to advance toward a just solution of the Palestinian problem.

Navon Confers With Polish Counterpart in Warsaw

TA191440 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Text] Education and Culture Minister Yitzhaq Navon conferred in Warsaw with Polish Culture Minister Aleksander Krawczuk. They decided to act to strengthen cultural relations between the two countries. The ministers met at the Polish cultural center in Warsaw after the opening ceremony of a Jewish exhibition. This was the highest level meeting between an official from Israel and a minister in the Polish Government during the events marking the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. An adviser to Navon said no political issues were raised in the talk, which dealt only with cultural relations between the two countries.

IDF Kills 2 'Terrorists' '2 Days Ago' in Lebanon

TA211717 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] An IDF unit killed two terrorists and wounded another north of the security strip. Our forces sustained no casualties. The incident occurred 2 days ago during IDF searches outside the Shi'ite village of Qabrikhah in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon.

Peres' 'Scornful' Remark on W. Bank Settlers

TA221109 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Apr 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, made an unprecedently scornful utterance about the settlers in Judaea and Samaria. The comment was made in a closed meeting held a few days ago with several businessmen and executives in the private and public sectors.

The meeting took place in the Herzliyya Pituah residence of Hayim Peled, the owner of an advertising firm. Peres described the settlers as a bunch of skullcap-wearing men with beards and rifles, whose outward appearance elicits great ridicule.

Peres said that if the Likud and the religious parties were to rise to power after the elections a Khomeyniist regime would be established in the State of Israel. Peres' remarks aroused astonishment and the sharp criticism of some participants. A businesswoman emphatically told him that he was trying to deceive them. [passage omitted]

Attorney Ram Kaspi, one of the participants in the meeting, wondered aloud about the Labor Party's conduct with regard to the religious public and parties; conduct which makes the latter shy away from a possible coalition with it. Peres confirmed that there was no chance of forming a coalition with the National Religious Party [NRP] in view of the results of its last internal elections, but noted that not everything was lost as far as the other religious parties are concerned.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent adds that there is a great deal of ferment vis-a-vis the party leadership among religious groups within the Labor Party. Former NRP members, headed by David Glass and Yisra'el Lipel, who joined the Labor Party in recent years are thinking of quitting it. Lipel and Glass will apparently summon a news conference at the beginning of next week to announce that they are quitting the Labor Party.

Peres on Religious Parties' Role, Settlers

TA221248 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says that the victory of the right in the National Religious Party [NRP] is not a revolution, but a process of radicalization sparked by the NRP's endorsement of Gush Emunim. Mr Peres said that he has no idea who really needs the religious parties, and perhaps the time has come to divorce religion from state affairs.

Appearing before high school students in Jerusalem, Mr Peres firmly denied a report published in one of the papers quoting him as having said the settlers are a ridiculous bunch of people sporting kafiyyehs [as heard], beards, and toting guns. The vice prime minister said it is scandalous for a member of another party to disseminate such tendentious and vicious information, adding that it is totally out of line with his usual style.

Peres Urges Restraint on Unrest, Jordanian Option

TA211903 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, told IDF soldiers in Bethlehem today that he adheres to the Jordanian option and that he does not think there is anything to discuss with the PLO. If we exercise patience and do the right thing, said Mr Peres, it will be possible to quell the uprising in the territories. This will open the road to negotiations. Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports:

[Begin recording] [Peres] First of all, this is the U.S. position.

[Nahmias] Early this morning, Israel's 40th independence day, Shim'on Peres chose to spend some time with IDF soldiers deployed in the territories. In his remarks, he dealt more with what unites the people than with what divides them. Answering a question on what the IDF is actually doing in the territories, he said that everyone is rallying in support of our soldiers in fulfilling their mission.

[Peres] What are you actually doing here? In general terms, what you are doing is making it possible for Israel to decide, unaffected by coercion or violence. This is what you are doing. Whatever views we may hold, stones will not force us to decide either way. I have full confidence that this unites all of us, regardless of what political views some of us hold.

The second purpose of your work here is to defend all the inhabitants, Jewish and Arab alike.

[Nahmias] Shim'on Peres agreed with one soldier that media reports are not always balanced, but he advocated a liberal approach stemming from a democratic world view. We won all our wars by virtue of being a democracy, while the Arab countries were defeated exactly because they were undemocratic.

[Peres] The decision whether to allow the media in usually depends on our decision as to what type of society we want to be: an open society, or one that is introverted and xenophobic. Yet the media cannot be held responsible or blamed for this. Some countries decide to stay closed, and that's that.

[Nahmias] The vice prime minister and foreign minister believes that the uprising in the territories is subsiding, but he warns against the unnecessary use of unwarranted measures such as the overuse of expulsions.

[Peres] If we exercise restraint and patience, they themselves will reach the conclusion that it leads nowhere. They will then either have to seek a solution—and we are prepared to discuss a solution with them—or put an end to all this tension.

If we use only brute force and show no restraint, I think we could induce a radicalization and direct them more toward the Khomeyni, fundamentalist, Jihad line. The question is whether this will work in our favor.

[Nahmias] As for the future, Shim'on Peres reiterated his adherence to the Jordanian option. He maintains that King Husayn is prepared to discuss Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Peres agrees to that even at the price of an international conference. He said: The alternative is negotiations with the PLO that will lead to a Palestinian state, with a Palestinian army equipped with Soviet weapons at the gates of Jerusalem. He emphasized that he would never accept that. [end recording]

Shomron Interview on Territories, IDF Role

TA210631 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1822 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, chief of the IDF General Staff, by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in Shomron's office on 20 April—recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Good evening and a happy holiday to you, Mr Chief of Staff.

[Shomron] Good evening and a happy holiday.

[Shlonsky] Did you ever think that on your first Independence Day as chief of staff the territories would take up so much of your time?

[Shomron] No. The truth is that I never expected to be so intensely preoccupied with the territories. At the same time, the issue of the territories is not new and has been an important feature over the last few years as well.

[Shlonsky] Yesterday, eight Arabs were expelled. Six of them on the local plane [as heard], plus two others. We are holding 5,000 detainees, another 1,000 people are under administrative detention orders, and almost the whole area of the territories is under curfew. Do you think this policy, this heavy handedness can continue for long?

[Shomron] With your permission, I would like to elaborate a bit on the territories. The IDF and Israel as a whole do not have a lot of experience in this type of activity, at least not on such a scale and intensity. Other countries have had past experience in such matters. By this I mean only countries whose moral and behavioral code are similar to ours.

I would very briefly say that the first characteristic of the situation is that the administration, having learned from the past, wanted to take immediate and very firm action in an almost extreme fashion, because the feeling was that the prestige of the Army and the administration was at stake. The main lesson was that the immediate reaction was effective but harsh and that at the same time the disadvantage of these measures was that precisely after their initial success, they sowed the seeds of destruction for the long term.

With our ultimate goal being to restore calm and to live normally with the inhabitants of the territories, the IDF exercises, in my opinion, just the right amount of force, while simultaneously allowing those inhabitants who want to live with us normally to maintain such a life. Therefore, when you ask me about tough measures, I say: Yes, we do employ them; we do expel people; we do impose curfews. At the same time, however, we also employ measures that permit those who so wish to conduct a normal life.

[Shlonsky] Earlier this week in a meeting with military reporters, you said that the IDF can only serve as the aspirin and lower the fever. What did you actually mean? Does the IDF not have the panacea for what is happening in the territories?

[Shomron] You should bear in mind that what lies at the core of the unrest and the uprising is first of all the motivation. We cannot affect the people's awareness or control their desires. We can only convince them that this form of activity will not yield any results so that the price they have to pay, whether personally or through their families, is for nothing. Through this activity, we will cause their motivation or awakening to lead them onto new paths of negotiations or to a search for a more realistic way. Hence, I view the military force only in terms of its ability to prevent them from achieving any success whatsoever. In that sphere, military force is definitely effective.

[Shlonsky] Are you also hinting at a political solution coupled with the military measures in the area?

[Shomron] I have always said that the IDF does not deal with political solutions. The IDF should create the proper atmosphere for any path decided upon by the Cabinet.

[Shlonsky] To what extent does the operational deployment in the territories of the standing army and reservists affect the IDF's preparedness for war? We have heard, for example, that reservists will serve up to 60 days of duty in the coming year.

[Shomron] First of all, the intense dealing with the events in the territories clearly exacts a price. It should, however, be seen from the correct perspective. In 1987, the working year that has just ended, we laid the foundations for restructuring the IDF for the 1990's and after, including the 21st century. This includes air, land, and sea projects. Since the cancellation of the Lavi project, we have had broader freedoms and have consequently entered into an admittedly prolonged process, but one which definitely means adjusting the IDF to the 1990's and after.

When all is said and done, this last working year may have been a very intense one in terms of training. In the last few months, the regular army has definitely spent a lot of time dealing with the problem of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Having said that, however, training has been intense and thorough, even up to the level of the General Staff.

[Shlonsky] Have events in the territories affected the IDF's deterrent power in terms of how the Arab countries perceive us or even in terms of how the Arabs in the territories have been perceiving us in the last few months?

[Shomron] I definitely do not think so, and I have evidence to corroborate this statement. The IDF is not being perceived as a weak army because it does not shoot and kill rioters in the street. I suppose the military leadership of Syria or any other country knows it is very easy to open fire at rioters. In my opinion, nobody in the world regards the fact that we do not do that as weakness.

[Shlonsky] Has the uprising, perhaps, proved to the Arab countries and the Arabs in the territories that Israel can be defeated or tackled better through a civilian uprising, through the kind of war of attrition we are currently experiencing, rather than through an all-out war?

[Shomron] I think that when the process is over and we analyze the events, it will become clear to all that also in this case the IDF and the State of Israel attained their objectives, which are restoring peace in the territories and being able to coexist. I suppose that this lesson will also be learned by the Arab countries. Making generalizations or inferences based on a specific moment in time is very hard, and I think one should not do so.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, regardless of what is happening in the territories, what will the IDF emphasize in the next 2 years? Will the IDF of the post-Lavi era seek new developments? What will it do about discipline, low motivation, the promotion of military careers?

[Shomron] I see the cultivation of career officers—in terms of fighting values and norms, discipline, responsibility, and initiative—as being secondary to the very important goal of building up the IDF, a task in which the development of weapons systems plays a very important part. I think we will be investing a great deal in them in terms of what I would describe in general terms as service conditions. These include university studies early on in their careers and conditions that will enable good officers to stay in the IDF. In my opinion, young officers have also done an excellent job this year.

On the subject of terrorism, I would like to say that a tough and serious war is being waged against us on all borders. There have been dozens of infiltration attempts into Israel, but except for two cases, all of the attempts were thwarted. Some of them were thwarted far away from Israel's borders, others in the security zone, and some right on the border. Still, there has been enormous success of which I am proud, and I think the Israeli people can also be proud of the IDF units and their commanders, who are doing an excellent job.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, the State of Israel today celebrates 40 years of independence while the dark cloud of what is happening in the territories hovers over its head.

[Shomron] In my opinion, we will attain our objectives in the territories, which are the restoration of peace and coexistence with the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We will attain them in our own special way, which I am sure will succeed. This calls for patience, however, on the part of the IDF—and the IDF has the patience and forbearance required—as well as on the part of Israeli society.

Allow me to seize this opportunity to extend my sympathies to the bereaved families, wish swift recovery to the wounded, and to the missing soldiers and POW's who are not yet with us to see each other again soon in Israel. To the IDF soldiers and commanders, reservists, and all the Israeli people, I wish the fulfillment of all the goals of the IDF and the State of Israel in years to come.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Events on Independence Day

TA211921 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The IDF spokesman reports that quiet prevailed in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District today. Hebron was bubbling with activity today, and even though shops were closed, the vegetable market was open as usual. Nabulus was under curfew, while in Ramallah the curfew was self-imposed in accordance with the local inhabitants' decision. The markets were shut and no one was seen on the streets.

Our correspondent reports that the IDF erected many roadblocks along the highways in Judaea and Samaria. Nevertheless, the roads were flooded with many vacationers who spent Independence Day traveling under the IDF's watchful eye. [passage omitted]

Cars belonging to two Arab policemen from Bethlehem and Hebron who had resigned but since gone back to work were set on fire. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that arson was also attempted and damage caused last night to the house of a policeman who had gone back to work in Hebron. Molotov cocktails were hurled at the home of another policeman last night, even though he has not yet rejoined the ranks.

Recently, several dozen Arab policemen from the territories appeared to be inclined to return to work. All in all, approximately 40 policemen have gone back to work. It seems that hostile elements are trying to arrest this trend.

The police fired rubber bullets today at rioters in the village of 'Isawiyah, east of Jerusalem. This came in reaction to attempts to fly black banners and throw rocks at policemen. Our police affairs correspondent reports that yesterday afternoon, the windshields of a bus were smashed by a rock thrown at it as it was traveling on Nabulus Road in East Jerusalem. Another Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday in Al-'Azariyah. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

Closure, Curfews Continue

TA220444 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] The closure of the territories continues. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that residents of the territories are forbidden to leave for Israel today as well. Some 400,000 people in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are under curfew today in 20 refugee camps and 2 cities.

Arson Attempt in Jerusalem

TA220815 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] A border police jeep was set on fire early this morning in the Gilo neighborhood in Jerusalem. A fire brigade unit which was summoned to the scene extinguished the fire and pronounced it an arson attempt.

After midnight last night, a firebomb was thrown at a Bank Leumi branch in the center of the village of Al-Taiyiba in the Triangle. Stones were also thrown at the local police station, but there were no casualties in either incident.

Rioters Released for Ramadan

TA221124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] At noon today the Military Government in Judaea and Samaria released several dozen youngsters who had been rounded up in recent riots. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the youngsters were released as a special gesture on the occasion of the month of Ramadan.

At the same time, however, a blockade remains in effect in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Some 400,000 inhabitants of the territories are under curfew.

Temple Mount 'Mass Riot'

TA221216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] There was a mass riot on the Temple Mount this afternoon after the prayers in the mosques. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that approximately 10,000 people participated in the prayers, a far larger number than usual. After prayers several hundred staged a demonstration, waved black flags and PLO flags, and carried placards saying: Fatah, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and Falastin.

As tempers rose, dozens began throwing rocks at the local police station. The policemen tried to disperse them with rubber bullets, but failed. Then large numbers of police and border police entered the Temple Mount and began dispersing the rioters by force. Several demonstrators were injured by the policemen and were hid by their friends in one of the mosques to prevent their detention.

One of the shaykhs, using a megaphone, tried to calm tempers down. The rioters, however, snatched it from him and continued to throw stones at the police station. Five policemen were slightly injured by the rocks, and approximately 20 rioters were detained. Right now, quiet prevails in the area.

Police Inspector Comments

TA221318 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] The police inspector general has said that the police did not interfere in the Temple Mount incident until hundreds of Muslim faithful began throwing stones at the local police station. Commissioner Kraus emphasized that the police never used tear gas or firearms to disperse the rioters and that no policeman ever entered the mosques. Commissioner Kraus does not believe the riot will affect the quiet that has now prevailed in Jerusalem for several weeks. He added that over the next few weeks, a reinforced police unit will be stationed on the Temple Mount during the Friday prayers.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that on Hagay Street in the Old City of Jerusalem stones were thrown at a border police unit and a tire was burned. No one was hurt.

There were riots in Gaza today at the end of the prayers in the mosques. The IDF dispersed the rioters with tear gas.

It has been reported by a Gaza hospital that 10 injured inhabitants of Jabalyah were admitted and that 1 is in serious condition. The IDF is investigating the report.

Khan Yunus Youth Killed

TA221424 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpt] A Khan Yunus youth was killed by IDF gunfire as a violent riot was being dispersed after prayers in the mosques. In another riot in Jabalyah, one of the rioters sustained head wounds and was transferred to Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba.

The IDF spokesman's representative in the Gaza Strip has told our correspondent Moti Amir that the Gaza Strip was quiet, apart from localized disturbances after prayers. At the same time, the IDF is looking into the events in Khan Yunus and Jabalyah.

Arab sources have told our correspondent that 13 Jabalyah residents were injured, 1 seriously.

In Jerusalem, 30 participants in a violent riot on the Temple Mount have been apprehended. Others were injured as large police and border police forces were dispersing the demonstration. Three of them required medical attention in the hospital. Five policemen were injured by stones, four of them slightly and one a little more seriously. [passage omitted]

2 Killed in Violence 22 Apr

TA221715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpt] In the village of Idnah near Hebron, IDF soldiers shot dead a local inhabitant who attacked a border policeman. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the incident occurred during a patrol of the village. Three villagers, one carrying a club studded with nails, attacked a border police officer.

In Bani Suhaylah in the Gaza Strip, a local inhabitant was shot dead during a riot. [passage omitted]

Some Policemen Return to Work

TA221402 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Apr 88 p A3

[Report by Yosi Levi]

[Text] Approximately 40 Arab policemen who had announced their resignation from the police more than a month ago have recently retracted their decision.

Approximately 450 Arab policemen—constituting 50 percent of all the Arab policemen—have resigned. The police launched an information campaign among the resignees to get them to return, trying to convince them in personal talks, offering encouragement, and promising to improve their salaries. The result is that approximately 10 percent of the resignees have retracted their resignations. Police sources note that many policemen want to return to the force, but extremist Arab elements are exerting pressures and are threatening them. The police take a grave view of this phenomenon and are trying to locate and bring the culprits to trial.

Deputy Chief of Staff Queried on IDF Ability

TA201603 Tel Aviv DAVAR (Special Independence Day Supplement) in Hebrew 21 Apr 88 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, by Hagay Eshed; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Eshed] What about the uprising in the territories? Can it be brought to an end without a political settlement or negotiations, and if so, how? Has it not detracted from the feeling of confidence and faith in the IDF as being capable of upholding our security?

[Baraq] People tend to confuse security in terms of our ability to win an all-out confrontation with the Arab states, and personal security driving on the roads in the Gaza Strip, Wadi 'Ara, or on the way to Nabulus. This confusion is misleading. An analogy with the events of 1929 is inapplicable in the current situation.

Today we live in a very strong country. The situation in the territories is not threatening our physical existence. On the other hand, I see the current struggle as being unique and having far-reaching implications. These implications are not only on our relations with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but also on our relationship with Israel's Arabs, on the way Israeli society is perceived by the Arab countries, on Israel's standing in world public opinion and in the eyes of the leaders of the free world, and even on our self-image.

Nevertheless, in this struggle we cannot fully use the tools and methods we use in other struggles which are no less important, such as all-out wars. Although the results of this struggle may be equally serious, we cannot open automatic fire at rioters—just to cite one example—because the IDF is the strong arm of a lawful state. We can, however, lower the profile of the activities in the field by mobilizing large forces, by improving our operating methods, by enforcing the Civilian Administration's economic and other levers of power, and by conducting arrests and deportations in keeping with the law.

A combination of all these measures may lower the level of activities and restore reasonable security to enable the political level to take action free of pressure and determine the timing and methods for dealing with the root of the problem through democratic means. I said free of pressure, I did not say free of understanding the reality of the situation.

[Eshed] Has Israel changed its security concept in the wake of the uprising in the territories?

[Baraq] In my opinion, Israel's basic perception of its security remains stable and should not change even as a result of complex events such as the latest ones. Basically, our concept is a defensive one on the strategic level and an offensive one on the operative level. The IDF's objective is to defend the state's existence, sovereignty, borders, and its ability to develop freely. This is a defensive mission par excellence.

Nonetheless, the asymmetry in terms of troops, resources, physical strategic depth, the concentration of the population, and even the international environment in which Israel acts are the reason why Israel cannot unequivocally win a war, if and when it is forced on us, unless it ultimately resorts to offensive action. We have nothing to win by going to war, even if it begins in self-defense. We have no wish to initiative offensives for their own sake. Given Israel's conditions, offensives must ultimately lead to results which may ultimately be translated on the political level which is the real area where achievements should be made.

We are no threat to the very existence of a political Arab entity. Suffice it to reiterate the well-known fundamental fact that we can never afford to lose, not even one battle, whereas the Arabs may lose one battle after another and yet keep going. Due to these and other reasons, it is important that we maintain our deterrence and our ability to neutralize the military capacity of the Arabs if they are tempted to take action. If they only had the power, perhaps even some moderate Arabs would change their objectives. Their views are not the result of some internal transformation but of a sober assessment of Israel's strength.

Despite recent events the Arabs bear in mind the IDF's military might and Israel's deterrent power and will continue to do so in the future. If a war is forced on us, regardless of the uprising in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, I have no doubt that we will defeat the enemy and emerge triumphant in all the following aspects.

In our special circumstances a tactical victory on the battlefield—as would be taught in the military colleges—will not suffice. The victory must also include some necessary elements which are hard to attain: destruction of the main battle units of the enemy; territorial gains within a short period of time and with tolerable casualties; and all of this without exhausting our stockpiles because this would result in political dependency during the critical stages of the war.

Only if we achieve all these objectives in our war will there be a basic change in our geopolitical situation. Even if all of these conditions but one are fulfilled our victory will be merely tactical and it will be difficult to translate it into a real political achievement. For example, if we do not make any territorial gains our political bargaining power will be weak. If we do not destroy most of the battle units we will be unable to relax our alertness and return to normal life, and again it will be difficult to gain a political achievement. If we are short on stockpiles we will be unable to fight without being reinforced and this will restrict us. Because of all these reasons the result must be more than tactical, it must affect all levels in order for Israel to really win the war.

These basic factors stem from the situation in the Middle East and they will change only when the entire geopolitical situation changes. They will change only when the IDF's and Israel's strength eventually convinces our neighbors that we intend to stay here for many generations and that we can defend ourselves against any threat they can offer. Only when the public in all the Arab countries surrounding us—and not only a few leaders—eventually recognizes that this is the case, only then will there be an opportunity to reach the root of the problem and change our security concept.

This is not a formal matter of a paper being signed by this or that leader. It must come about through a long process of many years so that future leaders as well will find it difficult to lead their people to war, because such a war will lose the relevancy of its objectives. Perhaps such a situation will hold during the celebrations marking Israel's 60th, or 80th birthday. It is difficult to tell. What we need now is sobriety, patience, and perseverence, and at the same time we have to be attentive to the sounds and changes emanating from our neighbors just over the hill.

[Eshed] Does this mean that Israel will never initiate a preemptive attack?

[Baraq] A preemptive attack has great advantages from a military-professional point of view. From the political angle, however, it is problematic in terms of superpower backing and international support. In the overall view there are pros and cons to a preemptive attack. It is inconceivable that we will not allow the political echelon freedom to decide how to act when it believes a war is imminent. Therefore, the army must prepare for all possibilities—including a preemptive attack—and preserve freedom of action for the political echelon. The military echelon will have to voice its assessments according to the political situation—whose nuances cannot be foreseen—and it will have to leave the decision of whether or not to act to the political echelon.

[Eshed] In light of a situation in which there is no peace (with Syria, Iraq, Libya and Saudi Arabia), and peace (with Egypt), can we define what are safe borders for Israel? Will the importance of territories such as the Jordan Valley, the mountain-line and the Golan Heights—which are the geographical elements of Israel's security on land and in the air—decrease in future? Will the Green Line enable us to defend Israel in case of a surprise attack? Will we be able to stop the armor of the enemy and guard the main routes while we are assembling our reserves and moving forces from front to front? What is the importance of the mountain summits for electronic warfare—for warning, monitoring, disrupting enemy networks, and conducting battles?

[Baraq] According to my personal judgment, from the purely professional aspect, there can be no settlement in the Middle East which would suffice for Israel's basic security needs and at the same time would permit the deployment of enemy divisions and weapon systems in Judaea and Samaria without us being able to prevent this with IDF units deployed in the area beforehand. This does not prevent political negotiations or a political solution. From the military point of view, however, it is inconceivable for somebody to deploy modern surface-to-air missiles on the mountain-line or an armored division near Qalqilyah. [Eshed] Is it possible to define the desirable balance of power—qualitative and quantitative—between Israel and all its Arab and Muslim neighbors? How can we preserve our deterrent power and our ability to defeat the enemy on land, air, and sea, both in terms of weapons and the battle doctrine ("the future battlefield")? Do these things increase Israel's military advantage over the Arabs or not?

[Baraq] The quantitative aspect does not answer the question of the balance of power. We would not like to fall from a 1:3 ratio, but numbers do not tell the whole story. Qualitatively we have a significant advantage in certain areas. In the air force, for example, the more complicated the systems and the more interconnected they are, the more they depend on intelligence, control, and good training which draws and implements the lessons from training and combat for improving performance. Despite the improving equipment of our enemy, our advantage in terms of air force operations is growing through the years rather than decreasing. On the other hand, in other systems, mainly on the level of the individual soldier, the efforts are invested in producing and manufacturing weapons systems, and the soldier himself ends up using a relatively simple piece of equipment which produces the results.

There are some contradictory trends here: The qualitative advantage of the Israeli society will be preserved in the foreseeable future. Quantitatively, however, the Arabs have an advantage. We have almost exhausted the resources of our economy and our society. If we look at the Arabs as separate states, all of them—Syria, Jordan, and Egypt—are facing economic problems. But when we look at Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and other countries, we will reach the conclusion that the Arab world has still not exhausted its resources, although at present it is divided.

[Eshed] When will the "future battlefield" be operational, both in terms of weapons and the battle doctrine?

[Baraq] It takes 8-10 years from the time our ideas ripen until we produce the weapons and prepare the battle doctrine for the future battlefield. Partial results can already be seen 3-5 years later. We have the foundations already and now we have an opportunity for changing the ratio between the casualties and the battle results. We are built better than others in this respect, because we have a lot of experience, very good industries, an advanced scientific infrastructure, and the possibility for a direct and purposeful dialogue between the manufacturer and consumer on these issues. This situation stems from the fact that many of our production engineers are also talented scientists and reserve men who have battle experience.

In the field of air force weapons development we have outstanding pilots, and the same holds true for the navy and ground forces. This combination of factors gives us a clear advantage. I think this trend will continue. It is not a simple process, because we must build our future power while at the same time taking care of routine security and remaining prepared for the possibility of war at any point. We cannot ignore routine security and the possibility of war while channeling all our resources into building the army of the next decade. We resemble a heavy vessel that has decided to change course. It takes a long time for the ship to change its direction. If we do not decide now where we want to go, there is no chance of us getting there.

[Eshed] Have the necessary decisions already been taken?

[Baraq] We have decided what not to do (the "Lavi") and we have taken the necessary immediate decisions on what to do. The final consolidation of the various trends, priorities, and relative weight of the main projects will be made in the framework of a multi-year plan during 1988. The fate of some of the projects will be decided at a future date, once it transpires in the production process itself what projects have better chances of success. This is a difficult process and the fruits will be reaped only by the inheritors of our inheritors. It is essential, however, to start now. Whoever expects immediate results does not understand how life works. The right answer is a revolution begotten through evolutionary means and with a clear view of where we want to go. We possess this answer.

Radar System To Detect Ground Troops Unveiled

TA182020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] A new radar system for the detection of ground troops within medium ranges has recently been unveiled by Elta, a subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries. The radar can be operated from a distance of up to 100 meters and is equipped with filters that eliminate atmospheric disruptions, irrelevant objects, and enemy disruption attempts. The system can detect targets such as tanks within 30 kms, medium-sized vehicles within 20 kms, and human beings within 10 kms under any lighting and weather conditions.

Briefs

Trade With Mexico

Mexico has agreed to purchase goods worth millions of dollars from Israel during the coming year. The products Mexico will buy from Israel include three geothermal turbines manufactured by the Ormat company, and water desalination plants. Mexico will also purchase medical equipment for hospitals, and chemical and organic fertilizers for agriculture. It has further been decided that Mexican helicopters will be overhauled in Israel and that Israel Shipyards will be invited to participate in the international bidding for the construction of towing vessels. This was agreed during Energy Minister Moshe Shahal's visit to Mexico. [Text] [*TA180956 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Apr 88 p 22*]

Organized Tours to PRC

For the first time, organized groups of tourists holding Israeli passports will be allowed to travel to the PRC this year. This was made possible by a special permit obtained by the Orientour travel agency, in association with the PRC Government tourism company TTS [name as published], which provides most of the Western agencies with tourist services. Nine exclusively Israeli tours have been approved so far. They are scheduled to leave beginning next month. [Text] [*TA191310 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 88 p 2*]

Government Protests Israeli 'Attack on Tunisia'

JN220656 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] New York—'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent UN representative, has said Israel's violation of Tunisia's sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as the assassination of martyr Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, are a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

Addressing the UN Security Council on behalf of the ICO member states last night on the premeditated Israeli attack on Tunisia, Salah added the attack, intended to kill one of the Palestinian people's prominent leaders, was only one form of the continued Israeli aggression against this people inside and outside the occupied Arab territories.

He said: Israel justifies such an attack as a reply to the struggle and resistance to occupation carried out by the Palestinian people. However, the truth is to the contrary because the Palestinian struggle began in the first place as a reply to the attacks against the Palestinian people on both their land and in exile. The Palestinians resorted to these resistance acts to achieve their national aspirations, represented by ending the occupation, determining their own destiny, and leading a normal, stable life like other peoples of the world.

Salah added: The acts of terrorism in the Middle East, which Israel insists on attributing to the Palestinians, were in fact created by the founders of Israel.

He said: Israel thinks by killing one of the most prominent leaders of the PLO it can stop the blessed uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and undermine the resolve of that militant people. Israel is absolutely mistaken in this regard.

In his speech, Salah expressed the Islamic states' solidarity with the government and people of fraternal Tunisia, which enjoys a distinguished international reputation for its commitment to international charters and norms. Moreover, Tunisia hosted the Palestinians following their third emigration and constantly supported their legitimate struggle for freedom and dignity. Tunisia's policy is also characterized by moderation, openness, and fruitful friendship.

He asserted that Israel's violation of Tunisia's sovereignty and territory is a crime from which Israel should not escape unpunished.

'Abdallah Salah asked the UN secretary general to continue paying attention to and following up this subject and to inform the Security Council, in case an appropriate resolution is passed, of whatever may emerge regarding its implementation.

He pointed out Israel's violations of the principles of international law throughout the past 40 years are indeed the cause of the Middle East situation, including tension, instability, and the lack of a normal life securing freedom, tranquillity, progress, and prosperity for all peoples in the region.

He said Israel's record is replete with various acts of aggression and terrorism aimed against states and individuals.

Statement Issued on Soviet Delegation's Visit

JN210653 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Amman—A delegation representing Soviet labour unions ended a visit to Jordan during which its members held talks with Jordanian labour unions and toured a number of industries and archaeological sites.

A statement issued by both sides at the end of their meetings voiced total Jordanian and Soviet support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories and backed the Arab countries' stand in demanding an international peace conference to end the Arab-Israeli struggle.

The two sides demanded an end to the Gulf war through peaceful negotiations and supported Arab just causes. They expressed the desire to promote bilateral cooperation and joint cultural, scientific, and informational activity towards promoting the cause of world peace and supporting the just struggle of liberation movements.

The two sides signed a protocol on joint cooperation to provide exchanges of visits by workers unions to either country, expertise and information material and vocational training.

U.S. Urged To Protect Gulf States From Iran

JN200903 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Stakes Raised in Gulf"]

[Text] The American-Iranian confrontation, which broke out into open warfare in the Gulf Monday, has indeed raised the stakes in the almost-eight-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

For the Americans it means the risk of being drawn into more intense and dangerous combat in the Gulf; for the Gulf Arab states it signals a direct role in the war since Iran, faced with the far superior air and naval power of the U.S., will take out its frustration on its neighbour states across the waterway.

The open Iranian charge that the U.S. as well as Kuwait helped Iraq recapture the Al-Faw peninsula is a clear indication of Tehran's aggressive intentions on Kuwait.

While the "measured" American response to Iranian mine-laying in the Gulf by hitting Iranian oil targets is an indication of American resolve to ensure freedom of navigation in the waterway, we wonder whether Washington is determined enough to see it through in a manner that does not endanger the security and stability of the Gulf Arab states.

It may be early to predict the shape of things to come, but the U.S. bears a direct responsibility to shield the Gulf Arab states from further fallouts from what happened in the Gulf Monday, since it was the American revenge raid on Iranian targets that prodded the Iranians into a frenzy in the Gulf hitting almost everything in sight, including an oil rig owned by one of the United Arab Emirates shaykhdoms.

It is only fair on the part of the Arabs and the international community to expect the Soviet Union, which is showing increased signs of understanding and appreciating the Arab line of thinking in the entire Middle East region, to take a determined stand based on international legitimacy, and to throw its weight behind a new, revitalised effort to end the Gulf war on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598.

Time is long past for political manoeuvrings by either of the superpowers, since it is clear that any delays in convincing Iran to put an end to the war will only herald further bloodshed and violence in the Gulf, and push the region into a state of further chaos which the international community could ill afford.

Paper Calls for U.S.-USSR 'Balance' on Mideast

JN210700 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
21 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Balance, Fairness"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's suggestion that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze should visit Israel during his upcoming trip to the Middle East is a further indication that a gradual return to normal ties between the Soviet Union and Israel is in the making, and we suspect that such a development bodes well for prospects for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful negotiations.

If an international conference is to be held, the Soviets will have to play a key role in it, along with the United States and the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

This suggests that Israel and the Soviet Union should have normal diplomatic ties, and Mr. Shamir said that such a development would help peace prospects.

But this is only half the picture. The other half is that the United States should have similarly normal relations with the Palestinian people, notably through their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

The fact is that both superpowers must be involved in promoting a negotiated settlement, and probably in multilateral arrangements to guarantee it as well.

The agreement on the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan suggests that the two superpowers have the interest and the ability to work together to help resolve regional conflicts in an equitable and realistic manner; and we hope that such joint action, based on the principles of international law and the dictates of universally accepted human and political rights, could prove fruitful in other regional conflicts, such as the Middle East, southern Africa or Latin America.

A key element of such an approach, however, is balance and fairness. In this case, it would seem logical, even imperative, that the United States and the Soviet Union should have normal working relationships with the two key protagonists in the region, namely Israel and the Palestinians.

The Israelis would be naive to expect that they can call for normal ties with Moscow while Washington refuses to deal with the PLO. A more realistic approach would be to foster good working relationships among all the concerned parties, as a key step towards convening an international conference in an atmosphere that would be conducive to trust and compromise.

To see the Soviets moving towards normal ties with Israel while the Americans continue to act in a hostile manner towards the Palestinians and the PLO strikes us as lacking the sort of balance that the situation warrants.

U.S.-Israeli Intelligence Cooperation Viewed

JN191013 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
19 Apr 88 p 24

["My Word" column: "Time Difference" by 'Abd al-Rahim 'Umar]

[Text] The Security Council was trying to voice an opinion over the destruction of Palestinian Arabs' houses in their Israeli-occupied homeland and to ask Israel to observe the Geneva Convention regulating relations between invasion forces and civilian citizens in occupied countries.

It was also trying to warn Israel against pursuing the policy of deporting Palestinians who oppose occupation. At this time the United States was supporting Israel in these measures and other military measures, including the use of poisonous gas in the occupied homeland.

While all this was happening, Israeli troops were attacking the house of Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, in Tunis, thousands of miles from occupied Palestine and shooting the martyred Palestinian leader before his wife and children.

Israel used modern technology to shorten the distance between Tunisia and occupied Palestine. It used certain methods to smuggle scores of Israeli fighters into Tunisia to observe the martyr's movements and cut telephone lines in the area where he was residing.

Israel had precise information on the house, the guards, and the Tunisian security system. Where did Israel obtain this information? Who supplied Israel with all the data on Tunisia and its internal security, especially since Tunisia is only one of 23 Arab countries?

If Israel wanted to collect information on these Arab countries with such accuracy it would have to recruit all its citizens into the Israeli intelligence service, Mosad. If Israel wanted to depend on its own resources, it would have to sell all its resources and devote the money to its intelligence activity and ignore other military activities.

This operation, which resulted in the martyrdom of Khalil al-Wazir, must caution the Arabs against loopholes in security measures and against the origin of these loopholes.

Operations such as destroying the Iraqi nuclear reactor and raiding PLO headquarters in Tunis and Entebbe Airport could not have been carried out without the resources of a big power.

Can we call this anything but terrorism? How can we differentiate between those reponsible for world security who hold permanent seats in the Security Council and those who are responsible for planning terrorism, at least in our region?

Israeli Jets Raid Factory, PFLP-GC Targets

NC221515 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes continue to fly over the coastal line extending between 'Aramun and Al-Daur and are being confronted by ground defense fire. The enemy planes raided the ridges of Al-Na'imah, Harat al-Na'imah, and Al-Damur between 1605 and 1615. A cement factory and two centers of the PFLP-GC were the targets of the Israeli raids. We have been informed that a number of people have been wounded and were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Raid 'Aramun, Barja

NC221517 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1505 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes strafed residential areas in 'Aramun at 1605 today and then raided Barja in the Iqlim al-Kharrub at 1630. The raiding planes were confronted by ground defense fire.

UN's Goksel Rejects Accusations Against Higgins

NC211415 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel has dismissed the accusations leveled by the kidnappers of UN officer Colonel William Higgins. In a statement to AFP, Goksel affirmed that Col Higgins works for the United Nations and not for the Americans or any other side.

President Criticizes Syrian 'Collusion With Iran'

NC220617 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has affirmed that U.S. efforts to achieve agreement that could help Lebanon emerge from the whirlpool of war are continuing. In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, conducted in Paris, President al-Jumayyil said one cannot say that final agreement has been reached on political and constitutional reforms or on a solution to the Lebanese problem.

Asked whether the United States intends to reach agreement with Syria on a formula for a solution and to impose such a solution on the Lebanese parties, President al-Jumayyil affirmed that the United States will not impose any solution on these parties, noting that Lebanese officials are convinced that no solution or agreement can be imposed at the expense of the Lebanese.

He disclosed that in his recent message to him, U.S. President Ronald Reagan stated explicitly that a solution to the Lebanese problem will contribute to a solution to the Middle East problem. He described this as an important political development.

In an interview with PARIS MATCH, President al-Jumayyil declared that he is maintaining intensive contacts with the Americans to find a suitable basis for rapprochement with Syria. He explained that Syria today has an interest in dialogue because fundamentalism is knocking at its door.

While affirming his personal readiness for dialogue with Syria, Al-Jumayyil expressed his conviction that it is possible to reach a provisional settlement with Syria, if not an agreement.

Al-Jumayyil criticized Syria for its collusion with Iran and for signing an agreement with Tehran at Lebanon's expense to ensure protection and logistical support for its elements in Lebanon. He said the Iranians would not have dared to take foreign hostages without Syria's condoning such actions. He affirmed that the Iranian presence in Lebanon depends to a large extent on the logistical support Syria is extending to the fundamentalist movements.

President al-Jumayyil called on Western countries to respond to terrorism by using the language of the terrorists, recalling that the Soviets did so once and succeeded.

Amal Political Bureau Denounces Al-Wazir Killing

NC211920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Excerpts] The Amal Movement's Political Bureau held its regular meeting today under the chairmanship of Minister Nabih Birri. The Bureau cautioned against any failure in reaching a national accord over the issues of participation and abrogation of political sectarianism, maintaining that such a failure would greatly endanger Lebanon's future and disrupt presidential elections. [passage omitted]

The Bureau noted that the events in the south were actually a pre-planned coup attempt and that its failure represents a victory for Lebanon's unity and the resistance.

The Political Bureau denounced the assassination of leader struggler Khalil al-Wazir, who devoted his efforts to resisting Israel inside the occupied territories. The Bureau urged the Palestinian people to continue their uprising in order to eventually force Israel to its knees. The Bureau believes that this assassination makes it imperative for honest people to unify their guns, the language of which Israel understands.

The Amal movement condemned U.S. intervention in the Gulf and the U.S. attack on the Muslim people of Iran. The movement noted that the escalatory U.S. measures constitute a sweeping danger to the freedom and sovereignty of all oppressed nations.

SLA Kills 3 Palestinians in Border Zone

NC211356 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Three Palestinian gunmen have been killed as they were trying to infiltrate areas north of Israel. According to security sources in the area, South Lebanese Army troops confronted the three gunmen in the eastern sector of the border zone.

SLA Positions Attacked, Patrol Ambushed 21 Apr

NC211707 Marj 'Uyun Voice of Hope in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol was ambushed by a group of terrorists in Al-Mashnaqah near Kafr Falus this afternoon. Two SLA soldiers were wounded and a vehicle was damaged in the attack. The SLA combed the area afterward.

Meanwhile, other terrorist groups hit an SLA position in Jabal Safi from three directions, shelling the position with RPG's before they attacked. None of the SLA personnel was hurt, however, and the attack was repulsed.

Earlier in the day, SLA positions in Sujud and Jabal Ghizlan came under rocket and 120-mm mortar shelling. The SLA returned the fire, silencing its sources.

SLA Fighting 'Extremist Islamic Organizations'

NC212012 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Fierce fighting between South Lebanese Army troops and leftist and extremist Islamic organizations has been raging along the Lib'a and 'Ayn al-Mir combat lines since 1930 today. Rockets and artillery are being used in the clashes.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats have been seen off the Sidon coast.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in Southern Suburb

NC220637 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] There was a clash last night in Bi'r al-'Abd in the southern suburb between Amal movement and Hizballah gunmen. Two persons were wounded in the fighting.

In Al-Murayjah, a clash took place between the Zu'aytir and Fadil clans last night in which automatic weapons and rockets were used. One of the shells fell on a Lebanese Army position in the Science College area in the southern suburb.

Iran's Jannati Meets Senior Shi'ite Figures

NC201842 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Ayatollah Jannati, head of the Iranian delegation currently visiting Lebanon, met at the Iranian Embassy today with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council; Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah; and His Eminence Shaykh Hassan Tarrad. Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian attended the meetings.

After the meetings, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement saying that the discussion during the three meetings centered on the recent developments in the Islamic arena and the need to close ranks and avoid disputes over minor issues. The statement declared that fighting among brothers is inadmissible.

Iddih Comments on Presidency, Other Issues

PM190847 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 9 Apr 88 pp 8-10

[Interview with National Bloc leader Raymond Iddih by Hamidah Na'na' in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Na'na'] So far there are scores of names running for the Presidency of the Republic. But observers believe that the name of the leader [Raymond Iddih] is the one most likely to win this position. In 1982 you set conditions for accepting the presidency and today we feel, from your press statements, that you have eased some of these conditions. Could you tell us about the new conditions and what your plan would be to solve the Lebanese crisis if you were elected president?

[Iddih] In 1982 I set three conditions: withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, withdrawal of Syrian forces, and abrogation of the Cairo agreement.

Today there are new developments in the Lebanese arena. The Cairo agreement, which both my party and I voted against, was canceled last May. But both Israeli and Syrian forces are still in the Lebanese arena. My only condition today is for the Israeli forces to withdraw, since Israel is Lebanon's enemy and the Israeli Army is the enemy army. I cannot ask Syria to withdraw, since it entered Lebanon in response to a request from the Phalangists. Both George Sa'dah, who is now the Phalangist Party leader, and Karim Paqraduni, senior adviser to [Lebanese Forces leader] Camille Ja'ja', negotiated the Syrians' entry into Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Do I understand from this that you agree to the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon?

[Iddih] Whether I agree or not, the Syrian Army was, as I said earlier, brought into Lebanon in response to a request from the Phalangists. Both the Riyadh summit and the Cairo summit considered this Army to be an

Arab deterrent force, and in order for it to assume such a form other forces were added to it: nearly 2,000 soldiers from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Sudan. But the majority of these forces are Syrian. [passage omitted]

So the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon is legitimate, just as relations between Lebanon and Syria are. Proof of this is that President al-Jumayyil has visited Damascus 11 times. Therefore, there is a big difference between Israel and Syrian-Lebanese relations.

That is why my condition for accepting the Presidency of the Republic is that the Israeli Army withdraw. [passage omitted]

When I become president I will visit all the major countries which are permanent members of the Security Council. I will meet with French, Chinese, British, and Soviet leaders. I will then visit the United States. I will tell officials in these countries: You voted on three resolutions concerning Lebanon, namely Resolutions 425 and 426 in 1978 and then Resolution 509 in 1982, which all call for the immediate withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon without any restrictions or conditions. But, today Israel has still not withdrawn. It is refusing to comply with these resolutions. And its prime ally, the United States, seems to agree to the Israeli forces remaining in South Lebanon and south of Al-Biqa'. Despite all this, the United States from time to time unhesitatingly says that it is in favor of Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty within its recognized international borders. It says this while practically supporting, encouraging, and agreeing to the presence of the Israeli Army in Lebanon. This is our big problem with the United States, the major country. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Would you not assume the presidency of the Republic and then work toward persuading the major countries to exert pressure on Israel?

[Iddih] By the condition I set for accepting the Presidency of the Republic, namely the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from Lebanese territories before I officially assume power, I mean to say to the major countries: There is still a man capable of adopting a stand—a man who is not after positions for which they set the conditions.

If I was asked: "How do you expect these countries to solve within 20 days a problem which has been in existence for years?" I would reply: These 20 days started at the beginning of January 1988. The United States has sent one envoy after another to the region since the beginning of the year. Murphy goes and then Shultz returns; Shultz goes and then Murphy returns. So the United States must have a concept regarding the situation in Lebanon. This is my position and I will not abandon it. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] If you were elected president of the Republic of Lebanon, what would your position be toward the Palestinian presence in Lebanon? And would you allow arms within the camps or not?

[Iddih] If their objective is to defend Palestine, why not? Their position in this case will be like that of those in other Arab states. Information maneuvers will be allowed, just as they were before there was any armed presence.

But if they decide to keep their arms inside the camps in fear of new (Sabra and Shatila) massacres, the answer will be no. And they have to choose between the presence of international forces around the camps or the presence of the Lebanese Army to defend them. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] Do you believe that you are a candidate acceptable to Lebanese Christians?

[Iddih] The Lebanese Forces and the Phalangists are allies of Israel. And I exempt them from voting for me and also exempt them from supporting me. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] What will be the formula for the relationship between Syria and Lebanon during your era? Will you, for instance, establish diplomatic representation?

[Iddih] If the Lebanese people, via a referendum, want diplomatic relations, that will be fine. But if they do not want them, we must respect their views and will. Europe, for instance, is on its way to unification in 1992; it will cancel diplomatic representation within it. [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] In 1977 you said that there was a plan to "Cypriotize" Lebanon and balkanize the region. Do you still believe that such a plan exists?

[Iddih] Yes. If Israel does not withdraw from Lebanon, this will reflect its determination to implement the plot, not only against Lebanon but against the Arab region in general. This plot against the Arabs has been prepared since the early 1950's. Moshe Sharett talked about it in his memoirs. They want to establish a Christian state in Lebanon as an ally of Israel. And this was what the Phalangists did and what [late Lebanese President] Bashir al-Jumayyil tried to do. Amin al-Jumayyil also tried to do that via his acceptance of the 17 May agreement, which I was against. I made numerous statements in this regard. I said that this agreement was not a security agreement; it was a reconciliation treaty with Israel. The agreement collapsed and Amin al-Jumayyil was forced to abandon it.

[Na'na'] And if you assume power in Lebanon...

[Iddih] (Interrupting) My chance is 1 in a million.

[Na'na'] Suppose it happens, what would your policy be toward the Arab world and its problems? And what would your stand be toward the Iraq-Iran war, the uprising in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the restoration of relations with Egypt?

[Iddih] Certainly I am with the Palestinian people and the stone war in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. What these children are doing is a great thing. And I hope (parents) will be content with this title and leave these children to decide their future. [passage omitted] As for the Iraq-Iran war, certainly we are with the Arabs; do you expect me to side with the Persians? [passage omitted]

[Na'na'] From the 19th century to the present the Lebanese Christians have thought that the West was protecting them and would side with them if something occurred that required its intervention. Yet here we have a civil war continuing for years and we have the West preoccupied with its own problems, and throughout your stay in the West you will have closely observed the truth behind the Western stand toward Lebanon's problem. If you were elected president of the Republic, how would you deal with this matter? Will you change Lebanon's allies?

[Iddih] Syria concluded a treaty with the Soviet Union. Can anyone consider this treaty to be treason? Every country is free to conclude alliances with any country it wants. But an alliance on a sectarian basis is one thing and an alliance on a nationalist basis is another. I am not talking here on a sectarian basis. I am talking about the possibility of establishing alliances in the interest of the Lebanese people as a whole. I said earlier that I am for Lebanon's unity, Lebanon's independence, and Lebanon's sovereignty. This is what the Americans always say, but this always proves false, doesn't it?

[Na'na'] If you become president of the Republic, with which countries would you conclude alliances?

[Iddih] I do not know, but I will not conclude an alliance with Israel.

[Na'na'] Has the road between you and Damascus become paved?

[Iddih] No. I have not visited Damascus.

[Na'na'] If you become president of the Republic, would you visit Damascus?

[Iddih] Possibly. But Amin al-Jumayyil visited it 11 times and Ilyas Sarkis visited it 4 times. There is something called a visit and Hafiz al-Asad should come to visit us in Lebanon. He can be assured that he will not be in danger since I will keep his army in Lebanon to help us establish security. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Receives PLO's Qaddumi, Fatah Official

JN211806 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Muhammad Ghunaym, Fatah Central Committee member, today. During the meeting, talks revolved around the Palestinian situation and the importance of the uprising and its positive effects on the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Qaddumi and Ghunaym expressed profound appreciation for Syria's pan-Arab role under President Hafiz al-Asad in defending the Palestinian Arab people's national aspirations and rights.

Al-Shar' Receives Japanese Ministry Official

JN211915 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received (Takaka Soko Kuriyama), Japanese assistant foreign minister, this morning. Diya'uallah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Shahir al-Duray'i, director of the Asia Department; and the Japanese ambassador in Damascus attended.

During the meeting, discussion revolved around the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Japan and ways to promote them in various fields.

Within this framework, (Kuriyama) conveyed to the minister an invitation to visit Japan from Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno. Discussion also dealt with the current developments in the region and the need to achieve a just, comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to convene an effective international conference under UN auspices.

Algeria's Messaadia Talks With Officials

Received by Al-Ahmar

JN211033 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, assistant secretary of the Algerian FLN, and the party and government delegation accompanying him. They had attended the funeral of the martyr Khalil al-Wazir—Abu Jihad.

The talks dealt with relations between the Ba'th Party and the Algerian FLN and a number of measures aimed at promoting joint cooperation. They also dealt with important developments in the region, especially the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist occupation and the importance of supporting and guaranteeing the continuation of the uprising.

A number of issues of mutual concern for the fraternal parties and countries were also reviewed.

Received by Khaddam

JN211300 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus—Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1115 today Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, assistant secretary of the Algerian FLN, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by the Algerian ambasador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region in light of the popular uprising against the Israeli occupation in the occupied Arab territories. They also dealt with the situation of Arab relations and issues of mutual concern.

Departs 21 Apr

JN211843 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, assistant secretary of the Algerian FLN, left Damascus for home at noon today. He was seen off by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; a number of comrades in the National Command; and the Algerian ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

Paper Cited on New U.S.-Israeli Memorandum

JN220559 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Apr 88

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH comments in its news report on the new memorandum of understanding between the United States and the Zionist entity. AL-THAWRAH says: The signing of this memorandum contains many signs within the framework of the developments that have placed the United States and Israel in a strategic alliance since 1981. It has given the Zionist entity a status similar to that enjoyed by the United States' NATO allies. It has given Israel a better status if we take into consideration the fact that the NATO partners, with the exception of the United Kingdom and the FRG, refused to join in developing Star Wars, in which Israel has become a full partner.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: What more does the march of U.S.-Israeli relations need now that events and developments have shown that the United States is fully committed to providing Israel with its aggressive requirements in terms of financial and military support?

Paper Says Israel on 'Path of Defeat'

JN210716 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Apr 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Assassination Is Not a Victory," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today: Damascus has embraced the body of the martyr Khalil al-Wazir, also known as Abu Jihad. This pure body was buried in Damascus soil, which is merged with the love of the pan-Arab cause, alongside scores of righteous martyrs who died for the sake of Palestine. Syria embraced the martyr Khalil al-Wazir's body because Syria has always been the heart of Arabism, the refuge of Arab strugglers, and the nation's base for continued struggle to regain both homeland and rights regardless of the sacrifice.

AL-BA'TH adds: If Israel is able to kill an individual or a group of individuals or assassinate a struggler or a group of strugglers, it cannot kill a people or assassinate a cause. It is true Israel can carry out an operation here or there. It can bomb a nuclear reactor in Baghdad, strike at PLO headquarters in Tunisia, or kill one of the strugglers in his own house. Does this mean Israel is strong and superior and that nothing can curb its arrogance and crazy aggression?

The paper adds: It is no exaggeration to say, based on the laws governing conflicts between peoples and colonialists in both ancient and modern history, that Israel is proceeding on the path of defeat despite all manifestations to the contrary. The Palestinian people are proceeding on the path of victory. These realities cannot be changed whether Israel bombards this or that area or kills here or assassinates there. The killing of a revolutionary, the quelling of a demonstration, the imposition of a siege, or the abduction of a struggler are not signs of strength. History's judgment will remain the same on Israel, which represents colonialism, racism, religious fanaticism, immorality, and illegality.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The uprising has inaugurated a new Arab era and torn apart the feeble Camp David course, which the capitulationists attempted to spread over Arab territory. Moreover, the option has been a fateful one. There will be no coexistence prior to the victory of Arab rights. Syria has been and will remain alongside all those who wage the battle of Arab rights and reject the policy of humiliation and capitulation. He who proceeds on this path will find Syria opening its heart and extending its arms to him and also placing its capabilities and resources at the disposal of the pan-Arab cause. The only Syrian demand is that no voice anywhere should rise above that of the uprising and that there should be no decision apart from that of the uprising.

Israeli 'Crimes' Against Arabs Examined

JN190939 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Apr 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Where Are the Arabs in What Is Being Prepared," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: We believe that the occupations, massacres, and crimes that Israel has carried out and perpetrated and is now carrying out and perpetrating against the Arab nation are enough to convince those who are not yet convinced that the Zionist entity, which was created by the imperialist forces in Palestine, will never be with the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region. What this enemy wants and seeks to achieve is to usurp more Arab territory and to further humiliate the Arabs. The Zionists' recent crimes, particularly the crime of assassinating Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, in Tunis, is new proof that Israel does not want peace even if the Arabs offered further concessions. This is because Israel was created by the world imperialist, colonialist, and reactionary forces to be their advanced aggressive base to use whenever they want. This is what is happening. There are several past examples of this, and it is not necessary to enumerate them now.

AL-BA'TH adds: If we want strong proof that what is being proposed here and there is a new conspriacy against the Arab nation to save Israel from its impasse, it is the continuous hostile U.S. stand against the Arabs, which is also continuous in its unlimited support for the Zionist enemy. He who has followed up the details of the recent developments in the region will realize that something is being prepared. In fact, the signs of the conspiracy have begun to appear in some capital in the region and the world.

Concluding, the paper says: However, they must all know that the destiny of the region is decided here by the Arab strugglers, the legitimate decisionmakers, and that the fate of all that is being hatched to foil the uprising, to save Israel, and to impose the fait accompli policy will not be better than the 17 May agreement which foundered on the rock of the heroic Arab resistance.

AL-BA'TH Assails Egypt Over Death Sentences

PM191527 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 4 Apr 88 p 2

[Jibarah al-Barghuthi article: "Egypt, U.S. Intelligence, and Mosad"]

[Text] It has been difficult for the Egyptian regime to find any word in its legal dictionary apart from the word "execution." Hardly a month goes by without citizens loyal to their homeland, their nation, and the eternal principles of Egypt's revolution appearing before Egyptian law.

It is hard for the public prosecutor to find any clause in the law apart from the one demanding that anyone who has been loyal to Egypt and its people and has rejected the idea that Egypt's territory should be the the scene of operations by Zionist, U.S., and Western intelligence in general be executed.

We do not know if the Egyptian judiciary, which is asking for 33 Egyptian citizens to be executed at once, borrowed the legal clause from the khedivial or British codes, or one of the codes inherited from Al-Sadat, despite the regime's claim that it is striving for a democracy different to that introduced treacherously by Al-Sadat.

Perhaps the Egyptian judiciary is certain that if it does not ask for the execution of these Egyptian citizens, then the Zionist and U.S. intelligence services will execute these freemen just as Sulayman Khatir was assassinated in his cell.

As long as U.S. intelligence is permitted to operate in Egypt—in much the same way as Mosad and the Egyptian intelligence services—it is not unusual for death sentences to be passed every month on Egyptians who reject the all-embracing influence of the Zionist Mosad and the CIA!

We therefore say to Egypt's rulers: Who are you ruling and what nation are you representing when U.S. intelligence has its own detention centers and prisons on Egypt's territory and the Zionist Mosad pursues Egyptian citizens inside their cities and villages, even in their homes outside Egypt?

Those rulers who have persisted in the Al-Sadat game to the point of leasing Egypt's territory to the Pentagon, woe to them who talk about Egypt's freedom, which they have pawned to its enemies, before talking about the Palestinian people's freedom, which, with that people's cause, they sold off when they signed the Camp David accords and when they removed all Palestinian names from educational and official records in Egypt.

The leaders of Egypt's regime have often claimed they are defending the people of Palestine when they have been prominent in urging an end to the Palestinian uprising, which has made them Zionism's accomplices in repressing the people's courageous uprising.

Those rulers, who are calling for Egypt's youth—supporters of Palestine and its cause—to be executed, will not support the Palestinian people and their rights. Therefore we say to Al-Sadat's heirs in the regime of apostasy:

Prove first of all you are Egypt's sons by freeing it from Mosad and U.S. intelligence control and cleanse yourself of the filth of your dealings with the Arab nation's enemies and only then talk on behalf of Egypt and its people, on behalf of Palestine and its people, and on behalf of Arabism and the nation that has sacrificed its sons for the truth.

Afghanistan

BAKHTAR Carries Text of Geneva Accords

Interrelationships Agreement

LD210858 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 21 Apr 88

["Geneva Accords: Agreement on the Interrelationships for the Settlement of the Situation Relating to Afghanistan"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR— 1. The diplomatic process initiated by the secretary general of the United Nations with the support of all governments concerned and aimed at achieving, through negotiations, a political settlement of the (?situation) relating to Afghanistan has been successfully brought to an end.

2. Having agreed to work towards a comprehensive settlement designed to resolve the various issues and to establish a framework for good neighbourliness and cooperation, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan entered into negotiations through the intermediary of the personal representative of the secretary general at Geneva from 16 to 24 (?June) 1982.

Following consultations held by the personal representative in Islamabad, Kabul and Tehran from 21 January to 7 February 1983, the negotiations continued at Geneva from [figure indistinct] to 22 April 1983.

The personal representative again visited the area for high level discussions from 3 to 15 April 1984. It was then agreed to change the format of the negotiations and, in pursuance thereof, proximity talks through the intermediary of the personal representative were at Geneva from 24 to 30 August 1984.

Another visit, to the area by the personal representative from 25 to 31 May 1985 preceded further rounds of proximity talks held at Geneva from 20 to 25 June, from 27 to 30 August and from 16 to 19 December 1985.

The personal representative paid an additional visit to the area from 8 to 18 March 1986 for consultations. The final round of negotiations began as proximity talks at Geneva on 5 May 1986, was suspended on 23 May 1986, and was resumed from 31 July to 8 August 1986.

The personal representative visited the area from 20 November to 13 December 1986 for further consultations and the talks at Geneva were resumed again from 25 February to 9 March 1987, and from 7 to 11 September 1987. The personal representative again visited the area from 18 January to 9 February 1988 and the talks resumed at Geneva from 2 March to 8 April 1988. The format of the negotiations was changed on 14 April 1988, when the instruments comprising the settlement were finalized, accordingly, direct talks were held at that stage. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was kept informed of the progress of the negotiations throughout the diplomatic process.

3. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan took part in the negotiations with the expressed conviction that they were acting in accordance with their rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and agreed that the political settlement should be based on the following principles of international law:

- The principle that states shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations: - The principle that states shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered,

- The duty not to intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any state, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

- The duty of states to cooperate with one another in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

- The principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples,

- The principle of sovereign equality of state,

- The principle that states shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The two governments further affirmed the right of the Afghan refugees to return to their homeland in a voluntary and unimpeded manner.

4. The following instruments were concluded on this date as component parts of the political settlement:

- A bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations, in particular on non-interference and non-intervention:

- A declaration on international guarantees by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, a bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the voluntary return of refugees.

The present agreement on the inter-relationships for the settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan.

5. The bilateral agreement on the principles of mutual relations, in particular on non-interference and non-intervention, the declaration on international guarantees, the bilateral agreement on the voluntary return of refugees, and the present agreement on the inter-relationships for the settlement of the situation relating to Afghanistan will enter into force on 15 May 1988.

In accordance with the timeframe agreed upon between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics there will be a phased withdrawal of the foreign troops which will start on the date of entry into force mentioned above. One half of the troops will be withdrawn by 15 August 1988 and the withdrawal of all troops will be completed within nine months.

6. The inter-relationships in paragraph 5 above have been agreed upon in order to achieve effectively the purpose of the political settlement, namely that as from 15 May 1988, there will be no interference and intervention in any form in the affairs of the parties, the international guarantees will be in operation, the voluntary return of the refugees to their homeland will start and be completed within the timeframe specified in the agreement on the voluntary return of the refugees, and the phased withdrawal of the foreign troops will start and be completed within the timeframe envisaged in Paragraph 5.

It is therefore essential that all the obligations deriving from the instruments concluded as component parts of the settlement be strictly fulfilled and that all the steps required to ensure full compliance with all the (?provisions of) the instruments be completed in good faith.

7. To consider alleged violations and to work out prompt and mutually satisfactory solutions to questions that may arise in the implementation of the instruments comprising the settlement representatives of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall meet whenever required.

A representative of the secretary general of the United Nations shall lend his good offices to the parties and in that context he will assist in the organization of the meetings and participate in them.

He may submit to the parties for their consideration and approval suggestions and recommendations for prompt, faithful and complete observance of the provisions of the instruments.

In order to enable him to fulfill his tasks, the representative shall be assisted by such personnel under his authority as required. On his own initiative, or at the request of any of the parties, the personnel shall investigate any possible violations of any of the provisions of the instruments and prepare a report the [word indistinct]. For that purpose the representative and his personnel shall receive all the necessary cooperation from the parties, including all freedom of movement within their respective territories required for effective investigation. Any report submitted by the representative to the two governments shall be considered in a meeting of the parties no later than forty eight hours after it has been submitted.

The modalities and logistical arrangements for the work of the representative and the personnel under his authority as agreed upon with the parties are set out in the memorandum of understanding, which is annexed to and is part of this agreement.

8. The present instrument will be registered with the secretary general of the United Nations. It has been examined by the representatives of the parties to the bilateral agreements and of the states-guarantors, who have signified their consent with its provisions.

The representatives of the parties, being duly authorized thereto by their respective governments, have affixed their signatures hereunder. The secretary-general of the United Nations was present.

Done, at Geneva, this fourteenth day of April 1988, in five original copies each in the English, Pashto, Russian and Urdu languages, all being equally authentic. In case of any dispute regarding the interpretation the English text shall prevail.

In witness thereof, the representatives of the states-guarantors affixed their signatures hereunder:

For the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, signed by 'Abdul Wakil, foreign minister.

For the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, signed by Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs.

For the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed by Eduard Shevardnadze, foreign minister,

For the Government of the United States of America, signed by George Shultz, U.S. state secretary.

Memorandum of Understanding

LD210838 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR—

I. Basic Requirements

A. The parties will provide full support and cooperation to the representative of the secretary general and to all the personnel assigned to assist him.

B. The representative of the secretary general and his personnel will be accorded every facility as well as prompt and effective assistance, including freedom of movement and communications, accommodation, transportation and other facilities that may be necessary for the performance of their tasks. Afghanistan and Pakistan undertake to grant to the representative and his staff all the relevant privileges and immunities provided for by the convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.

C. Afghanistan and Pakistan will be responsible for the safety of the representative of the secretary general and his personnel while operating in their respectives countries.

D. In performing their functions, the representative of the secretary general and his staff will act with complete impartiality. The representative of the secretary general and his personnel must not interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and Pakistan and, in this context, cannot be used to secure advantages for any of the parties concerned.

II. Mandate

The mandate for the implementation—Assistance arrangements envisaged in paragraph 7 derives from the instruments comprising the settlement. All the staff assigned to the representative of the secretary general will accordinly be carefully briefed on the relevant provisions of the instruments and on the procedures that will be used to acertain violation thereof.

III. Modus Operandi and Personnel Organisation

The secretary general will appoint a senior military officer as deputy to the representative, who will be stationed in the area, as head of two small headquarters units, one in Kabul and the other in Islamabad, each comprising five military officers, drawn from existing United Nations operations, and a small civilian auxiliary staff.

The deputy to the representative of the secretary general will act on behalf of the representative and be in contact with the parties through the liaison officer each party will designate for this purpose.

The two headquarters units will be organised into two inspections teams to ascertain on the ground any violation of the instruments comprising the settlements. Whenever considered necessary by the representative of the secretary general or his deputy, up to 40 additional military officers (some 10 additional inspection teams) will be redeployed from existing operations within the shortest possible time (normally around 48 hours).

The nationalities of all the officers will be determined in consultation with the parties.

Whenever necessary the representative of the secretary general, who will periodically visit the area for consultations with the parties and to review the work of his personnel, will also assign to the area members of his own office and other civilian personnel from the United Nations Secretariat as may be needed. His deputy will alternate between the two headquarters units and will remain at all times in close communication with him.

IV. Procedure

A. Inspections conducted at the request of the parties

1. A complaint regarding a violation of the instruments of the settlement lodged by any of the parties should be submitted in writing, in the English language in the respective headquarters units and should indicate all relevant information and details.
2. Upon receipt of a complaint the deputy to the representative of the secretary general will immediately inform the other party of the complaint and undertake an investigation by making on-site inspections, gathering testimony and using any other procedure which he may deem necessary for the investigation of the alleged violation. Such inspection will be conducted using headquarters staff as referred to above, unless the deputy representative of the secretary general considers that additional teams are needed. In that case, the parties will, under the principle of freedom of movement, allow immediate access of the additional personnel to their respective territories.
3. Reports on investigations will be prepared in English and submitted by the deputy representative of the secretary general to the two governments, on a confidential basis. (A third copy of the report will be simultaneously transmitted, on a confidential basis, to United Nations headquarters in New York, exclusively for the information of the secretary general and his representative). In accordance with paragraph 7 a report on an investigation should be considered in a meeting of the parties not later than 48 hours after it has been submitted. The deputy representative of the secretary general will, in the absence of the representative, lend his good offices to the parties and in that context he will assist in the organisation of the meetings and participate in them. In the context of those meetings the deputy representative of the secretary general may submit to the parties for their consideration and approval suggestions and recommendations for the prompt, faithful and complete observance of the provisions of the instruments. (Such suggestions and recommendations will be as a matter of course, consulted with, and cleared by the representative of the secretary general).

B. Inspections conducted on the initiative of the deputy representative of the secretary general.

In addition to inspections requested by the parties [words indistinct] the deputy representative of the secretary general may carry out on his own initiative and in consultation with the representative inspections he deems appropriate for the purpose of the implementation of paragraph [number indistinct]. If it is considered that the conclusions reached in an inspection justify a report to the parties, the same procedure used in submitting reports in connection with inspections carried out at the request of the parties will be followed.

Level of participation in meetings.

As indicated above, the deputy representative of the secretary general will participate at meetings of the parties convened for the purpose of considering reports on violations. Should the parties decide to meet for the purpose outlined in paragraph 7 at a high political level, the representative of the secretary general will personally attend such meetings.

V. Duration

The deputy to the representative of the secretary general and the other personnel will be established in the area not later than twenty days before the entry into force of the instruments. The arrangements will cease to exist two months after the completion of all timeframes envisaged for the implementation of the instruments.

VI. Financing

The cost of all facilities and services to be provided by the parties will be borne by the respective governments. The salaries and travel expenses of the personnel to and from the area, as well as the costs of the local personnel assigned to the headquarters units will be defrayed by the United Nations.

Nonintervention Accord

LD201248 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR—The Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the high contracting parties, desiring to normalise relations and promote good-neighbourliness and cooperation as well as to strengthen international peace and security in the region, considering that full observance of the principles of non-interference and non-intervention in the internal and external affairs of states is of the greatest importance for the maintenance of international peace and security and for the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, reaffirming the inalienable right of states freely to determine their own political, economic, cultural and social systems in accordance with the will of their peoples, without outside intervention, interference, subversion, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever, mindful of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the resolutions adopted by the United Nations on the principle of non-interference and non-intervention, in particular the declaration on principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among states in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, of 24 October 1970, as well as the declaration on the inadmissibility of intervention and interference in the internal affairs of states, of 9 December 1981, have agreed as follows:

Article I

Relations between the high contracting parties shall be conducted in strict compliance with the principle of non-interference and non-intervention by states in the affairs of other states.

Article II

For the purpose of implementing the principle of non-interference and non-intervention each high contracting party undertake to comply with the following obligations:

1. To respect the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, national unity, security and non-alignment of the other high contracting party, as well as the national indentity and cultural heritage of its people.

2. To respect the sovereign and inalienable right of the other high contracting party freely to determine its own political, economic, cultural and social systems to develop its international relations and to exercise permanent sovereignty over its natural resources, in accordance with the will of its people, and without outside intervention, interference, subversion, coercion or threat in any form whatsoever.

3. To refrain from the threat or use of force in any form whatsoever so as not to violate the boundaries of each other, to disrupt the political, social or economic order of the other high contracting party to overthrow or change the political system of the other high contracting party or its government, or to cause tension between the high contracting parties;

4. To ensure that its territory is not used in any manner which would violate the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity or disrupt the political, economic and social stability of the other high contracting party.

5. To refrain from armed intervention, subversion, military occupation or any other form of intervention and interference, overt or covert, directed at the other high contracting party, or any act of military, political or economic interference in the internal affairs of the other high contracting party, including acts of reprisal involving the use of force.

6. To refrain from any action or attempt in whatever form or under whatever pretext to destabilise or to undermine the stability of the other high contracting party or any of its institutions.

7. To refrain from the promotion, encouragement or support, direct or indirect of rebellious or secessionist activities against the other high contracting party, under any pretext whatsoever, or from any other action which seeks to disrupt the unity or to undermine to subvert the political order of the other high contracting party.

8. To prevent within its territory the training, equipping, financing and recruitment of mercenaries from whatever origin for the purpose of hostile activities against the other high contracting party, or the sending of such mercenaries into the territory of the other high contracting party, and accordingly to deny facilities, including financing for the training, equipping and transit of such mercenaries.

9. To refrain from making any agreements or arrangements with other states designed to intervene or interfere in the internal and external affairs of the other high contracting party.

10. To abstain from any defamatory campaign, vilification or hostile propaganda for the purpose of intervening or interfering in the internal affairs of the other high contracting party.

11. To prevent any assistance to or use of or tolerance of terrorist groups, saboteurs or subversive agents against the other high contracting party.

12. To prevent within its territory the presence, harbouring, in camps and bases or otherwise, organizing, training, financing, equipping and arming of individuals and political, ethnic and any other groups for the purpose of creating subversion, disorder or unrest in the territory of the other high contracting party and accordingly also to prevent the use of mass media and the transportation of arms, ammunition and equipment by such individuals and groups,

13. Not to resort to or to allow any other action that could be considered as interference or intervention.

Article III

The present agreement shall enter into force on 15 May, 1988.

Article IV

Any steps that may be required in order to enable the high contracting parties to comply with the provisions of Article II of this agreement shall be completed by the date on which this agreement enters into force.

Article V

This agreement is drawn up in the English, Pashto and Urdu languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Done in five original copies at Geneva this fourteenth day of April 1988.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Agreement on Refugees

LD201323 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR—The Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as the high contracting parties.

Desiring to normalise relations and promote good-neighbourliness and co-operation as well as to strengthen international peace and security in the region.

Convinced that voluntary and unimpeded repatriation constitutes the most appropriate solution for the problem of Afghan refugees present in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and having ascertained that the arrangements for the return of the Afghan refugees are satisfactory to them, have agreed as follows:

Article I

All Afghan refugees temporarily present in the territory of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall be given the opportunity to return voluntarily to their homeland in accordance with the arrangements and conditions set out in the present agreement.

Article II

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan shall take all necessary measures to ensure the following conditions for the voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their homeland:

A. All refugees shall be allowed to return in freedom to their homeland.

B. All returnees shall enjoy the free choice of domicile and freedom of movement within the Republic of Afghanistan.

C. All returnees shall enjoy the right to work, to adequate living conditions and to share in the welfare of the state.

D. All returnees shall enjoy the right to participate on an equal basis in the civil affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. They shall be ensured equal benefits from the solution of the land question on the basis of the land and water reform.

E. All returnees shall enjoy the same rights and privileges, including freedom of religion, and have the same obligations and responsibilities as any other citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan without discrimination.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan undertakes to implement these measures and to provide, within its possibilities, all necessary assistance in the process of repatriation.

Article III

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan shall facilitate the voluntary, orderly and peaceful repatriation of all Afghan refugees staying within its territory and undertakes to provide, within its possibilities, all necessary assistance in the process of repatriation.

Article IV

For the purpose of organising, coordinating and supervising the operations which should effect the voluntary, orderly and peaceful repatriation of Afghan refugees, there shall be set up mixed commissions in accordance with the established international practice. For the performance of their functions the members of the commissions and their staff shall be accorded the necessary facilities, and have access to the relevent areas within the territories of the high contracting parties.

Article V

With a view to the orderly movement of the returnees, the commissions shall determine frontier crossing points and establish necessary transit centres. They shall also establish all other modalities for the phased return of refugees, including registration and communication to the country of return of the names of refugees who express the wish to return.

Article VI

At the request of the governments concerned, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] will cooperate and provide assistance in the process of voluntary repatriation of refugees in accordance with the present agreement. Special agreements may be concluded for this purpose between UNHCR and the high contracting parties.

Article VII

The present agreement shall enter into force on 15 May 1988. At that time the mixed commissions provided in Article IV shall be established and the operations for the voluntary return of refugees under this agreement shall commence.

The arrangements set out in Articles IV and V above shall remain in effect for a period of eighteen months. After that period the high contracting parties shall review the results of the repatriation and, if necessary, consider any further arrangements that may be called for.

Article VIII

This agreement is drawn up in the Pashto, Urdu and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

Done in five original copies at Geneva this fourteenth day of April 1988.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

U.S.-USSR Guarantee Accord

LD201214 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR—The governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and of the United States of America,

Expressing support that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have concluded a negotiated political settlement designed to normalize relations and promote good-neighbourliness between the two countries as well as to strengthen international peace and security in the region,

Wishing in turn to contribute to the achievement of the objectives that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have set themselves, and with a view to ensuring integrity and non-alignment,

Undertake to invariably refrain from any form of interference and intervention in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and to respect the commitments contained in the bilateral agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations in particular on non-interference and non-intervention,

Urge all states to act likewise.

The present declaration shall enter into force on 15 May 1988.

Done at Geneva, this fourteenth day of April 1988 in five original copies, each in the English and Russian languages both texts being equally authentic.

The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

The Government of the United States of America

More on Afghan-Soviet-U.S. Tripartite Conference

Soviet Delegate's Remarks

LD220850 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0425 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 21, BAKHTAR—"We, the scientific and social figures of the Soviet Union, who consist of scholars, economists, lawyers and members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences have participated in tripartite conference of the Afghan, Soviet and US scientific and social figures to get much more information concerning the efforts made by the Republic of Afghanistan towards realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and to get further understanding about the situation in Afghanistan", said Smirnov, member of the Soviet delegation from the Political Sciences Institution of Moscow.

Smirnov stressed that though the Soviet Union is helping Afghanistan economically, but in my opinion, the American organisations too should start their economic cooperation with Afghanistan for removing the current economical problems in this country.

Smirnov emphasised that the policy of national reconciliation has been initiated by Afghanistan herself. But to fulfill it, a concrete national unity, maturity of the parties, particularly patience is needed.

BAKHTAR Lauds Conference

LD220900 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 21, BAKHTAR—The holding of a tripartite conference in which the scientific and social figures of the Republic of Afghanistan, the United States of America and the Soviet Union have participated is another good step for the elucidation of the noble objectives of the policy of national reconciliation.

This is the first conference since the April Revolution in which the US scientific and social figures have taken part in order to find out the realities on the present situation in Afghanistan.

Deliberations and exchange of views between the social figures of the United States and the Soviet Union on the situation around Afghanistan provide the opportunity for the delegations to become further oriented to the prevailing socio-economic and political situation in the country.

This gives the US delegation the opportunity to refresh the minds of the Americans about the present situation in Afghanistan.

It will also become clear to American delegation that contrary to Western propaganda, the Soviet Union has been acting as a genuine friends of the people of Afghanistan and its objective has been nothing else but to help the Afghan people.

The state and people of Afghanistan are resolute in securing peace in the country in the wake of the policy of national reconciliation and have taken the necessary preparations for the full realisation of Geneva accords which have assumed the form of an international legal treaty. Meanwhile, the other side is also expected to employ goodwill for compromise.

The people of Afghanistan expect that the conference will be conductive to the cause of global peace and to the establishment of an overall peace in the country.

Najibullah Speech to Central Election Commission

LD212138 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Apr 88

["Excerpts" from speech by Esteemed Najibullah, president, at the final session of the Central Election Commission for the Meli Shura, held at Delkosha Palace, the presidential headquarters, in Kabul on 21 April—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed members of the commission:

The Meli Shura [National Assembly] elections of the Republic of Afghanistan were transformed into a great event in the political life of our country and an important factor in creating a new state structure in the form of a coalition and multiparty system.

The elections helped to both accelerate the development of the positive changes taking place in the country and to the growth of the masses' activities.

Elections and the fight for the elections [words indistinct] after the Grand Assembly and the promulgation of the Republic of Afghanistan's Constitution by the Grand Assembly, according to which elections to the Meli Shura and its first session, and the formation of a government, must take place 6 months after the election of the president.

Here I would like to point out that the specific (?time) for the convocation of elections was linked to the Geneva talks and the possibility of electing a coalition government.

It was also considered to hold the elections prior to [word indistinct]. These conditions imposed restrictions at the time when we were struggling to convene and organize the elections.

We have not forgotten the fact too that the elections should have been carried out in proportion with the military situation.

On 19 March the Republic of Afghanistan's Law on Elections to the Meli Shura was approved at a Revolutionary Council session. A presidential decree on holding election wards during the election period from 5 to 14 April, was approved.

In accordance with the Presidential Decree, in all, 229 election wards for the Wolasi Jirgah [People's Assembly] were formed. Among them 49 election wards were allocated to the opposition and 12 wards to the nomads. For the Senate, 62 wards were created; 14 wards were under the control of the opposition and 2 wards were specially allocated for the nomads.

On 29 March [words indistinct] of the districts and subdistricts [words indistinct] of Balkh Province and the creation of the new Sar-e Pol Province and wards for the election to the Wolasi Jirgah were formed. Two election wards [words indistinct] were allocated to them.

In the course of preparations to convene the elections, in consultation with the Central Election Commission, separate election wards were created as demanded by the people. Thus 5 additional election wards for the Wolasi Jirgah were formed.

In this way a total of 234 election wards for the Wolasi Jirgah were created. [Word indistinct] of the elections, messages addressed to the people of Afghanistan, to the opposition's leaders, and to commanders of the opposition's armed groups were sent.

The National Front and the Council of Ministers issued messages to compatriots who were outside the country. In these messages it was proposed that they take part at the elections.

The UN Human Rights Commission and the UNHCR [United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Refugees] were invited to come to Afghanistan and observe the election proceedings.

One month ago, as a result of a special decree, the Central Election Commission, composed of 34 people, was created from representatives of party and state organizations, youth, women, other social organizations, toilers' collectives, the armed forces, and other parties.

The chairman of the Central Election Commission was Esteemed Hatif, chairman of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan and [word indistinct] of the commission, representatives of the leadership of the PDPA, SAZA [Toilers Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan], SZA [Toilers Organization of Afghanistan], the Peasant Justice Party and the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan, were appointed. Six seats were allocated for the opposition in the composition of the commission.

In order to solve the practical issues involved, [word indistinct] was created within the framework of the Central Election Commission. The [word indistinct] of convening the election was functioning in the PDPA Central Committee.

[Words indistinct] of the Councils of Peoples Representatives of the provinces, Kabul city, Khowst major district, 31 provincial election commissions and 234 commissions for election wards were created. The polling stations were then created, if necessary, in the election wards.

A total of 6,957 people worked in the election wards. Among the election commission members, 40.5 percent were members of the PDPA; 44.4 percent were nonparty members; 15.1 percent were representatives of other political parties; 8.2 percent were religious leaders; 5 percent were from the opposition; and 1.9 percent were returnees.

Representatives of five political parties, six social organs, and all strata of citizens took part in the election commissions. Working groups were created and were sent to the provinces to help in the preparation and holding of the elections.

A business session was held with these groups and all the electorial documents were prepared in order. The PDPA took the initiative of creating a ruling coalition in the election campaign.

The PDPA leadership engaged in a series of consultations with the leadership of other political parties and the National Front. As a result, an acceptable plan for introducing the candidates to the constituencies was designed and organized.

The left democratic parties bloc issued a declaration on the election. On the basis of a request by the SAZA and SZA, the Peasant Justice Party, and the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan, the PDPA did not introduce its members in all the constituencies in which these parties had a candidate.

During this time, all the parties and social organizations had the opportunity to introduce their candidates in each of the constituencies, from which they benefited broadly during the election campaign process.

As a result of flexibility by the left democratic parties bloc and the Council of the Presidency with regard to organizing the elections, all the ground [passage indistinct].

In accordance with the election law a number of candidates of the political parties and social organizations were introduced by their central bodies. In fully supporting the candidates proposed by the center, the local power bodies, and social and party organizations also introduced a number of candidates, (?among them) were personalities with credentials, religious personalities, businessmen, peasants, workers and tradesmen. This is a shining example of democracy in practice.

In general, the national composition of the candidates conformed with the national composition of the country's people. The political and organizational work which was carried out provided the opportunity for the election to be organized dynamically and to be carried out with the greatest involvement by the voters in a climate of strict observation of tradition and legality. A daily average of 150,000 persons voted.

Some 8,666 villages and a total of 1,547,000 persons took part in the elections. The election campaign was launched at a high political and organized level in Kabul city, Kabul Province, Herat, Qandahar, Nangarhar, Jowzjan, Balkh, Faryab, and other provinces.

All social strata in the country participated in the voting. Of particular interest was the high level of activity seen among the workers, peasants and the masses of the people.

The opposition groups were allowed into the election centers in many constituencies, despite the fact that weapons were in their possession. The people from the opposite side participated actively in the elections in Baghlan, Kabul, Konduz and Herat.

During the election process a number of armed opposition members came over to the side of state power and 2,876 emigrants returned to the homeland.

The elections were also held in two constituencies located in the territory under the opposition's control. The six constituencies formed for the regional forces, and mainly for the armed groups, joined state power. This matter too is a great victory for the elections.

The people's broad participation in the elections was possible as a result of observing the Republic of Afghanistan's Constitution, without deviation, the Law on Elections and relevant decrees, and as a result of true democracy during the introduction of candidates and voting. We express our appreciation to all of you, esteemed members of the Central Election Commission.

The elections were turned into popular elections as a result of the national reconciliation policy and the consistent implementation of the slogans on a coalition and multiparty system.

As a result of these elections, a total of 184 representatives and 115 senators were elected to the Meli Shura. The social composition of the elected representatives and senators reflects the coalition characteristics of the highest legislative body of the country.

Forty-eight percent of the representatives and senators are representatives of the SAZA, SZA, the Peasant Justice Party, the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan, the opposition, nomads, regional forces and those personalities who introduced themselves on an individual basis; 37 percent are representatives of the National Front; 21 percent are from the PDPA; and 7 percent are from trade unions, the DYOA and the National Council of Women of Afghanistan.

These figures tell us many things, but above all about free elections. The election of a democratic parliament to replace the highest temporary existing body of state power—the Revolutionary Council—is the most important stage in the evolution of the April Revolution and forms a new state.

Past elections revealed the people's increasing confidence in party and state power and revealed the popular support for our policy to establish peace and tranquillity, and to form state power bodies based on a coalition and a multiparty system.

At present, preparations have started for the first session of the Meli Shura, which should elect the cabinet of Afghanistan and approve the composition of the credentials commission for the presidents, vice presidents and secretaries of the two houses, as well as the composition of the permanent commissions.

In accordance with the Republic of Afghanistan's Constitution, the prime minister will present the composition of the government to the House of Representatives to receive a vote of confidence.

We will hold the session immediately after the month of Ramadan has ended. Special attention should be paid to resolving these issues.

Dear friends and comrades, elections mean a victory for the national reconciliation policy. Elections are the best gift for the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution.

Elections are the indices of the enhancement of the masses political involvement. A number have not been elected. It is an entirely natural matter. We should not separate these individuals from us, but, on the contrary, we should involve them in work in the state power bodies. Opportunities will be given to them to give their best in other fields, broadly and creatively.

The elections have become part of the good history of our country now, thanks to the commission members. You have carried out your responsibilities honestly and your work will be concluded with the approval of the final documents. I express appreciation to you once again. Thank you.

Mujahidin Combat Operations Reported 9-10 Apr

Clashes in Qandahar, Ghazni

LD211533 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 21, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin killed or wounded 180 joint Soviet-Afghan government troops in Ghazni Province on 9 and 10 April, forcing the Kabul regime to postpone the so-called Communist Party elections in the province.

The mujahidin also attacked a supply convoy of the Kabul regime on its way from Sheikhan Bandar [spelling as received] to the capital early this month, seizing five truckloads of foodstuff.

Meanwhile, communist positions in Meymaneh provincial center were attacked by mujahidin missiles as a result of which heavy losses were inflicted on security police headquarters and several government buildings. 13 communist soldiers were killed and a group of others wounded in the attack. Meymaneh citizens also boycotted the elections.

In similar operations in Qandahar, Farah and Ghazni provinces in the past two weeks mujahidin killed 93 joint troops while destroying six tanks and military vehicles and two military outposts.

Soviet Troops Killed in Herat

LD201925 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 20 IRNA—Afghan mujahidin killed over 40 Soviet soldiers during an engagement in the western border region.

Dozens of Russian soldiers were also wounded and a member of the mujahidin attained martyrdom in the course of the battle, which occurred on April 12 in Herat Province.

According to reports from the region, two tanks and a personnel carrier of the occupying Soviet forces were destroyed by mujahidin, and all crew members including the commander of 28th Brigade of the puppet Kabul regime were killed.

Bangladesh

Opposition Elects Parliament Leaders 21 Apr

BK211556 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Mr A.S.M. Abdur Rab, MP [member of parliament], took over as the leader of the opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] this afternoon. Mr Ahsan Ali Khan, MP, will be the deputy leader of the opposition.

According to an official handout they were elected the leader and the deputy leader of the parliamentary group formed recently at a meeting attended by 43 MP's belonging to different [opposition] groups.

Foreign Secretary on Ershad Visit to Burma

BK211607 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam says Bangladesh and Burma enjoy close and cordial relations and President Ershad's coming visit to Burma will consolidate the existing friendship, understanding, and cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

He was commenting on President Ershad's coming visit to Burma [beginning 26 April] at a press briefing in Dhaka this evening. He said Bangladesh and Burma are immediate neighbors and they are bound by common ties of history and geography.

The two countries have developed mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields and concluded a number of agreements.

The foreign secretary said the president's visit to Burma will provide an opportunity to exchange views at the highest level on bilateral relations, as well as on regional and international issues of common interest.

The foreign secretary said the governments of the two countries have also succeeded in settling some important bilateral issues and also signed a number of agreements to strengthen their bilateral relations.

Major exports to Burma constitute jute and newsprint, while major imports from Burma are rice, nonmetallic minerals, vegetable fats, and (animals).

Our representative says that during his visit to Burma President Ershad will be accompanied by an entourage of 38, including the foreign minister, minister for shipping, members of Parliament, and high government officials.

India

Punjab Arms Cache Found; Violence Continues

BK220320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] In Punjab, police and security forces unearthed a big cache of sophisticated arms and ammunition in Faridkot District last night. The director general of the state police, Mr Gill, told the AIR Chandigarh correspondent this morning that the cache includes 4 rocket launchers, 15 Chinese assault rifles, 5 foreign-made automatic pistols, 2 time bombs, 20 magazines of Chinese rifles, and over 4,500 rounds of ammunition.

The weapons were recovered from two underground bunkers near the tube well outside village Jaimal Singhbala. The security forces had conducted a raid on the place on the basis of the information obtained during the investigation of the recent killings in the area.

This is one of the biggest hauls of the terrorist arms and ammunition in the state and the second in which rocket launchers have been recovered.

Five persons were killed in separate incidents last night in the state. Two persons were killed and three injured in a powerful explosion in the Naya Bazar locality of Jullundur District.

The injured have been admitted to the hospital. The cause of the explosion is being investigated.

In Amritsar District, a couple was shot dead in village Pattuchak and one person was killed in Chola Saheb.

Home Minister Visits Amritsar Border Posts

BK210456 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, visited the border observation posts and other paramilitary posts in Amritsar District yesterday.

An official spokesman told the AIR Amritsar correspondent that Mr Chidambaram also held discussions with senior police and paramilitary officials on maintenance of law and order in the state.

The minister was shown arms and ammunition, including 16 missiles and contraband seized by the BSF [Border Security Force].

Pakistani Envoy Welcomes Gandhi Talks Proposal

BK220340 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Dr Humayun Khan, Pakistani ambassador to New Delhi, welcomed Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's proposal, made in parliament, to resume talks between the Indian and Pakistani interior secretaries.

Addressing a function in New Delhi, the Pakistani ambassador said Pakistan proposed in 1984 that the two countries, instead of hurling accusations at each other, should (?jointly) seek new avenues of cooperation between them.

The Pakistani ambassador said it is regrettable that an attempt has been made in India to create a wrong impression that Pakistan interferes in India's internal affairs.

He expressed sorrow over the fact that India has carried out baseless propaganda against Pakistan in the last few weeks. This has caused great grief in Pakistan, knowing that India has been maligning Pakistan in all countries and holding it responsible for all the evils in the region.

He said Pakistan is ready to hold either bilateral or regional-level talks on regional nuclear nonproliferation.

Iranian Envoy Views Persian Gulf Developments

BK220911 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Iran has warned the superpowers to keep away from the Gulf. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi about the latest developments in the Gulf, the Iranian ambassador in India, Dr Ebrahim Behnam-Dehkordi, accused the United States of turning the region into a hotbed of tension.

He said Tehran will retaliate if the Reagan administration launches any fresh attack on Iran. The ambassador said India could play a major role in bringing peace to the Gulf because of its political influence.

Turkish Foreign Secretary Meets With Leaders

Holds First Round of Talks

BK220420 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network
in English 1600 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] India and Turkey today underlined the need to expand trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The delegations of the two countries led by their foreign secretaries held the first round of annual consultations in New Delhi today for over 90 minutes.

Besides trade and economic cooperation, the focus of discussion was on improving bilateral relations. The 2-way trade between India and Turkey has already touched $100 million.

This will be reviewed in greater detail during the meeting of the joint economic commission of the two countries to be held in Turkey next month. Relations between Turkey and Greece as well as the Cyprus issue also figured in the meeting.

Later, the Turkish foreign secretary, Mr Nuzhet Kandemir, called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh. He expressed his country's desire to improve relations with India.

Urges 'Increased Cooperation'

TA220742 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
2000 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Nuzhet Kandemir, currently on an official visit to India, has called for increased cooperation between Turkey and India.

Speaking at a dinner in New Delhi hosted in his honor by his Indian counterpart, (Meno), Kandemir proposed to conduct (?periodic) exchanges of visits between the two countries.

Kandemir declared Turkey and India can assume a significant role in the resolution of urgent regional problems.

According to ANATOLIA, Kandemir apprised his Indian counterpart of recent developments in the Davos and Belgrade meetings. The Foreign Ministry under secretary will conclude his contacts in India on 23 April.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD221255 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i, Tehran's Friday imam, in today's Friday prayer sermons in Tehran referred to the U.S. aggression against Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf and the fact that this aggression happened on the anniversary of the U.S. aggression in Tabas in 1980, which resulted in the charred bodies of the aggressors and in U.S. disgrace.

He said: Although this U.S. act of aggression happened some time ago and is somewhat different from the other, it will not benefit the United States in any way, as at Tabas.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council noted the factors that led to this gamble by the U.S. Administration, and said: The Halabjah incident and the victory of the fighters of Islam in the "Val-Fajr-10" offensive not only had a profound effect on our people, but also had a well-derseved effect on the morale of the leaders of global arrogance and shook Saddam's allies. In the midst of this, the United States felt the danger more than anyone.

The president then referred to the comprehensive struggle of the Iranian nation against the United States as the commencement of the Islamic revolutionary movement and the intensification of these battles after the victory of the Islamic revolution.

He said: The first thing that comes to mind in connection with the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf is that the United States entered this region to defend the Zionist Iraqi regime, because that regime cannot cope by itself. The regime ruling Iraq also took advantage of this opportunity with the Al-Faw campaign. Some people were pleased with that campaign, but they should know that the decisive blows of the fighters of Islam will make them regret their pleasure. They will learn they judged too quickly. The future will show that victory belongs to Islam and to the nation that has risen up and is prepared to stand against the alliance between East and West, Europe, the United States, and reactionary states, just as it has endured all the blows of the past 7 years of the imposed war and has inflicted heavier and heavier blows on the enemy.

The president then analyzed various aspects of the U.S. attack against Iranian oil platforms and said: The United States is trying, in order to convince its own nation, to give some legitimacy to the crime it has committed, because the U.S. nation is the same nation which put pressure on the U.S. Administration in power during the criminal Vietnam conflict. As a result of these pressures, the U.S. Administration was forced to withdraw from Vietnam and accept defeat. Undoubtedly, the U.S. nation will not be satisfied this time either if Reagan's foolish deeds and his gangs' election propaganda create problems for it. It will force the U.S. Administration to put an end to this dangerous venture and refrain from becoming entangled in a lengthy war.

The president also said: The U.S. Administration, in order to deceive public opinion, made the excuse that because their warship hit a mine, they permitted themselves to attack Iranian platforms. Is this logic correct? Is it not possible that the mine was laid by themselves, by somebody else, or by the Iraqi regime? Assuming Iran laid the mine, why did you come to the Persian Gulf? What is your combat force doing in the Persian Gulf in such strength? Are they here just to attack our oil platforms, which are in a nonmilitary area? Your action is illogical and you are lying to the U.S. nation.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council then referred to the dishonorable aspect of the U.S. action in the Persian Gulf, and said: The United States has not engaged in war with this act, it has committed a crime. Our forces tried to save the wounded. In response, the U.S. forces prevented our relief forces from saving the lives of the wounded. The names of U.S. statesmen must be recorded, as a result of this crime, alongisde the great criminals of history.

The president then referred to the U.S. declaration that the war is finished. If we are faced with a bully and if we see that it will not stop its bullying with words, we will strengthen our resolve to bring him down from the throne of bullying. We will bring him down. This U.S. act has increased our nation's anger against the U.S. Administration and has made the United States, in the minds of other revolutionary nations of the world, uglier and more despised.

Mr Khamene'i then added: The action of our fighters and their rapid and brave reaction was seen by the world as an amazing event. Our nation has the bravery, when arrogant powers want to be bullies, to confront them. Global arrogance's ambition to save Saddam is an empty dream. Just as they have always said and promised to the nation, our fighters will bring Saddam's 'Aflaqi regime to its knees.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i addressed the Iranian nation and said: Today the Iranian nation must send all forces to the fronts, and all youths and all able-bodied people must be prepared to rush to the fronts.

Navy Chiefs Discuss Latest Operations

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[Political roundtable discussion with Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy, and Hoseyn 'Ala'i, commander of the IRGC Navy, moderated by Afshar, correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Afshar] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to our esteemed compatriots and dear viewers of the political roundtable. I wish for success and victory for each one of you before the Almighty. Dear brothers and sisters, I wish to introduce to you the participants in this week's political roundtable.

The brothers who have taken the trouble to come and participate in this program are Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan, commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Hoseyn 'Ala'i, commander of the IRGC naval forces. It is necessary to point out, dear brothers and sisters, that the two brothers who accepted our invitation and came to participate in this program were at the operational sector until this afternoon.

I shall begin this program by asking Brother Malekzadegan my first question. Sir, you were in the operational sector until noon today. Naturally, you have latest news from there. I think our viewers would be eager to hear from you.

[Malekzadegan] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I salute the imam of the nation and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, with blessings on the pure souls of the immortal martyrs of our Islamic country, particularly the martyrs of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran—especially the dear martyrs of the heroic missile launcher-destroyer "Sahand" and the valiant missile launcher-warship "Jowshan."

Before I give a brief account of the sea operations, of the courageous battle by our dear ones with the aggressor United States, it is necessary to refer to the fact that the battle our Navy carried out in the past few days in the Persian Gulf was unprecedented in the history of naval warfare in the region. Indeed, I believe that it was a heroic naval battle unsurpassed in the naval battles of the world.

It is essential that the details of these operations be made known to the next generation, our dear youth, at the appropriate time so that they may be proud of their fathers for fighting in such a way against the world oppressor, the United States, thus creating epics and valuable lessons worthy of emulation.

Our naval battle began in the morning, on Monday. Of course, I should mention that prior to that we were prepared for a major battle with the aggressor United States.

Acting on reports available, we had spread out our units, warships, and helicopters in various parts of the Gulf. In the center, in the vicinity of the Nasr and Salman oil platforms, we stationed the valiant destroyer "Jowshan."

Between the "Jowshan" and the Strait of Hormuz was the destroyer "Sahand," and then between these two, the area was assigned to the destroyer "Sabalan."

Of course, I would like to point out that these were not our only units, just the units stationed in that combat area. There were other units in other areas which did not become directly engaged in combat with the aggressor United States. They were in the support sector, or in the frontlines of the plan, but were not involved.

After the mercenary enemy United States initiated the attack against the Nasr and Salman oil platforms, the missile launcher-warship "Jowshan" entered the arena.

These cherished men were aware beforehand that they would be engaged in battle with the superpower. This was a very important factor. Even with this awareness, they were full of enthusiasm and fervor, and with high morale they prepared to enter this fierce battlefield.

At first, the "Jowshan" was attacked by the enemy's air force. It is necessary to mention here that the enemy had brought its aircraft carrier "Enterprise" to the Strait of Hormuz area the day before.

More than 90 fighter, bomber, missile attack, and surveillance planes participated in these operations, along with a large number of warships present in the Gulf area.

The enemy launched an air-naval attack against our Navy. The "Jowshan" was first attacked by helicopters and airplanes, which it sharply repelled with all its weapons, missile systems, and artillery.

Using all the equipment at its disposal it repelled this attack. In the second stage the enemy entered the arena with greater numbers of aircraft. When it realized it could not carry on close-range battle with the "Jowshan," the heroic warship, the enemy moved to a distance of nearly 100 km.

It then began using long-range missiles against the "Jowshan," firing more than 10 missiles. The "Jowshan" repelled most of them, but finally five missiles damaged the warship.

These cherished men in fact created an epic. We have not witnessed such a battle in the history of naval warfare. They fought to the last man, to the last drop of blood, to the last bullet.

The enemy had sustained such losses from this warship that even after some of our personnel had fallen into the sea, it attacked them with airplanes, rockets, and machinegun fire.

As you know, the sea buries the evidence of battle and becomes calm. What we achieved there indicates that the enemy sustained losses in its battle with the "Jowshan." The evidence from the scene of the battle points out that the enemy retreated and could not take anything with it. [sentence as heard]

In the central sector, the "Sahand" missile launcher-destroyer approached the Nasr and Salman oil platforms from the right flank and became embroiled in an encounter with the aggressor.

Once again the enemy's intense aerial attacks strafed the destroyer "Sahand." According to reports, it is very possible an enemy plane was damaged and in the last moments [of the encounter] one helicopter was also probably damaged. The "Sahand" bravely resisted in the central sector of the Persian Gulf. It repelled the line of planes heading toward the "Jowshan" and fought by itself as well.

Then, when the enemy could not fight this destroyer at close quarters, it moved away and began missile attacks from a distance. A large number of missiles, more than nine, hit this destroyer as it fought to the end. The men fought to the last bullet.

We should remember them, particularly Petty Officer Qahremani, who was the last person fighting on board. His last bullet was fired at the aggressor enemy. We must pay homage to the memory of these dear martyrs and all the martyrs of the heroic destroyer "Sahand."

We must also remember the martyrs of the "Sabalan," the destroyer which was locked in an particularly intense battle. Despite the fact that it sustained damage, praise be to God, selfless technical personnel have been able to retrieve it and are working on it. Praise be to God, we hope that it will soon be ready for battle again.

This naval battle fought against the enemy's extensive air-naval attack is really without parallel, and we created an epic. I think the enemy, the aggressor United States, planned to launch a large-scale attack, but it could not break our frontlines comprised of these units and was forced to retreat.

The fact that our dear ones, the naval forces, fought over a front of more than 400 km—as it was not confined to the operational sector of the Nasr and Salman oil platforms—as well as the fact that the enemy had extended its battle lines in the Gulf, indicates that it had evil designs to eliminate our Navy from its (?line of) defense because we had held a monopoly over the area until now and had always fought with strength.

These designs did not affect the morale of our dear ones. They became more determined and resolved. They were geared up to engage the aggressor United States. God willing, in the future we shall witness more fierce battles and greater victories.

[Afshar] God willing. Brother 'Ala'i, until now the United States has attacked Iran's oil platforms in the Gulf on various pretexts. Why is it that whenever the United States wants to indulge in an act of overt aggression against Iran and attack it, it always chooses oil platforms?

Also, please tell us whether our retaliatory operations against the United States will be restricted to such operations which took place on Monday and later, or whether we have other operations in mind.

['Ala'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to the imam of the nation and the dear Islamic fighters, and blessings on the epicmakers of battle with the United States and the dear and brave martyrs of the operations in the Persian Gulf over the past 2 days.

The United States has various reasons—whenever it is angered by the Islamic revolution it uses them as a pretext—to attack targets in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

To date, two important incidents have taken place, in which we have witnessed attacks on our oil platforms by the U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf. The latest attack was momentous and stemmed from numerous reasons. I think the Americans fully understand that the safety of the Persian Gulf cannot be accomplished through the presence of their warships.

For the Persian Gulf to be made secure, the aggressive Iraqi regime must stop its mischief in the Persian Gulf. The Americans know that if the Iraqis do not attack our oil and oil installations in the Persian Gulf, we will be able to use our oil facilities with ease and thus work from a base of power and economic strength in the Persian Gulf to the benefit of the Islamic Revolution.

Therefore, the Americans have taken Iraq's place so that Iraq need not do anything in the region and its capability, which is challenged by our Islamic fighters on the various fronts, need not be expended in the Persian Gulf.

Therefore, the United States instead of Iraq attacked the oil platforms, particularly the oil platforms out of the range of the Iraqi planes. If Iraq wants to attack them, it will have to expend more effort.

It is interesting to note that oil platforms such as the Nasr oil platform had not been attacked by Iraq until the United States attacked them. This proves that Iraq do not have the capability of attacking all of our installations in the Persian Gulf. And this weakness had to be covered up by the United States.

At the same time as these operations were going on, the war of the cities and the war with Iraq on all its various fronts continued, demanding that Iraq use its Air Force against our fighters there. Therefore, the Americans took over the task in the Persian Gulf.

On the other hand, the United States engages the Islamic Republic by opening a new front in the Persian Gulf. It tries to occupy some of our forces on this front. The fact that the U.S. operations in the Persian Gulf against the oil platforms coincided with the Iraqi attack on Al-Faw was to achieve this same purpose. To explain the matter from a military point of view, the U.S. attack on the platforms can be interpreted as a support move by the United States for the Iraqi attack on Al-Faw.

A major part of the IRGC's capability was utilized in the operations for the liberation of Al-Faw and was required for the continued defense of Al-Faw. Therefore, seeking to sap the Islamic Republic of Iran's strength from the defense of Al-Faw, they launched these attacks occupy our naval forces in the region and spread thin our command capability.

Another reason is the issue of the reactionary Arabs and the Persian Gulf countries, the Hijaz regime in particular. On the eve of the visit of our pilgrims to Hijaz, and their pilgrimage to the house of God, the Americans always create problems.

Last year their presence in the Persian Gulf and the trouble they created on the eve of the hajj was meant to assist the Hijaz regime. This year the U.S. attack and the Hijaz regime's announcement on their inability to receive our pilgrims is definitely connected.

The U.S. attack on our oil platform can also be seen as an effort to mask the U.S. military's impotence in the Persian Gulf. The Americans, despite their pompous claims of strength, have sustained many blows in the Persian Gulf. Their weaknesses have been revealed to the world and its militarists.

The "Samuel Roberts" collision with a mine—an overt military defeat for the U.S. Administration—brought disgrace upon the United States on the international level and motivated it to counteract the publicity over its defeat. In an effort to depict it as a defeat for the Islamic Republic, the United States tried to attribute the incident to the Islamic Republic and used it as a pretext to attack.

This incident and the preceding events are indicative of the overt military weakness of the U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf. Instead of perpetrating these acts of mischief, the Americans should try to reduce their warships involvement in the Persian Gulf.

These are some of the reasons why the Americans chose to attack our oil platforms. Another reason that comes to mind is that these oil platforms are far from our coast; they are closer to the shores of the other Persian Gulf countries and are situated in the waters of the continental shelf.

The routes of the U.S. warships are closer to that coast than to ours. The Americans believe that operations in this region will make them safe from our retaliatory blows. That is why they chose these particular platforms.

[Afshar] Mr 'Ala'i, in the course of your remarks you alluded to the Iraqi attack in the Al-Faw region and the fact that the U.S. attack on the oil platforms was in support of those operations and thus launched simultaneously.

According to the latest reports, our forces have moved their defensive positions east of the Arvand River as a result of U.S. support, the placing of strategic Kuwaiti areas at Iraq's disposal, and Iraq's massive use of chemical weapons to an extent that its own forces do not dare to advance into those areas. Could you please explain in greater detail the role of the United States and Kuwait in Iraq's operations?

['Ala'i] Al-Faw was in fact an island which had been cut off by the Arvand River and the Khawr 'Abdallah and which is surrounded by these waters. Extensive operations in this region require a high level of capability which Iraq does not possess by itself.

To carry out a vast operation in this area, the Iraqis needed the Americans to enter the fray and use Bubiyan Island on a large scale. In fact, the use of Bubiyan Island can be considered as a new flank against our forces and as close support of the Iraqi forces.

The U.S. attack in this region—its helicopters participated in the Al-Faw o-operation, and the Americans attacked our oil platforms and engaged us there—can be considered as an act of support.

By using Iraqi military facilities and engaging some of our IRGC naval units in that area when we could have used them extensively in other sectors, they boosted Iraqi morale.

[Afshar] Sir, we have heard in the news that countries which had brought their warships to the Persian Gulf are gradually taking them out or reducing their numbers. Please tell us what the situation is regarding the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf.

[Malekzadegan] I think it necessary to mention a small point to our dear ones about the presence of these warships. When the United States was disappointed by Saddam because he could not do anything at sea, and when the Iraqi Navy was completely destroyed in the region and our Navy was in complete control, the United States came and assisted Saddam from the air.

All the systems of the East and West were placed at Saddam's disposal so that he could attack us by sea and thus eliminate our naval strength or break it down, particularly as regards our shipping and communication routes for the export of oil and other cargo.

In the course of this war, you can see that the Super Etendards, the Exocet missiles, and from the West the Mirages have been used in the war. These were given to Iraq, and we know Iraq did not have them at the beginning of the war.

These were acquired so that the Iraqi Navy could inflict blows at us from the sea. From the East, Saddam was given (Hy-2) missiles, and recently it received Tupolovs with 601 missiles. In short, it tried to inflict blows at us in whatever way it could.

None of this was successful, as we carry out our work decisively and ultimately. When the United States was disappointed, it made a move and surfaced. In the beginning we did not realize that our real enemy was the United States and Saddam a mere instrument.

Last year it was forced to come out in the open, and it started its program of escorting ships, trying to show the world that it was maintaining the security of navigation and so on. It suffered many blows because of this.

One example is the "Stark" incident, in which more than 40 U.S. sailors were killed. This was a major setback. The "Bridgetown" was escorted by a strong naval fleet.

It is amazing that this fleet would enter the Gulf to escort a ship and then see the lead vessel run into a mine. Then its helicopters fell into the sea, and another vessel was damaged.

Various other vessels were damaged. Finally, the vessel that was being escorted was damaged. In view of these occurrences, the United States decided it had made a great mistake in entering into this situation.

It could only extricate itself by committing an action which would serve to justify itself to the nations of the world. It did this by bringing in NATO minesweeping vessels.

After sweeping the Persian Gulf for 6 or 7 months, they have not seen a resolution to this issue. The United States, or rather the NATO countries, wanted to gradually withdraw from this region to which the United States had forcibly brought them. They were leaving when this plot was implemented, that is, the operations in the northern Persian Gulf in Al-Faw and the battle in the Persian Gulf itself, which in my opinion is an extensive plot.

The presence of U.S. warships will most probably continue in view of the present situation. However, it is possible that the NATO countries, some of whom have already departed, may continue to depart.

The presence of foreign warships in the region has not created any security; it has only brought about more insecurity and tension. I think that the nations of the world will ask this superpower: What did you achieve with your presence?

You have heard that Great Britain announced that its vessels will not go in the region at present. Other countries have announced that their ships should use caution.

This indicates that the presence of foreign warships brings insecurity in its wake. A comparison between the number of vessels damaged last year and the number damaged in the previous year—when the U.S. warships were not in the region—will show that the attacks increased by more than 70 percent.

This is in addition to the full-fledged naval war and its losses, which you have witnessed. The United States has not benefited from the situation. It is therefore trying to justify its actions.

It may send some NATO forces, or maybe even some of its own, out of the area. The greater possibility is that they will certainly not have any peace in the Persian Gulf.

[Afshar] Thank you very much. Mr 'Ala'i, you referred to the U.S. attack on the two Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf. Two hours after the U.S. attack our fighters attacked a platform which had been rented by a U.S. company, setting it ablaze.

Could you please tell us whether there were any Americans on that platform and if so, did they suffer any casualties? What importance did this platform have?

['Ala'i] The battle on Monday was one of our most extensive one with the United States. The Americans had rallied all their military capability in the Persian Gulf and we responded appropriately and swiftly.

The aircraft carrier "Enterprise," which carries 90 planes, was assigned the task of providing air cover for the region. Six other warships carried out the attack on the two platforms.

Three warships and one helicopter carrier attacked the Salman platform. These warships all have special features and are used for helicopters; they have surface-to-surface missiles, surface-to-air missiles, radar, and complete military facilities.

They mobilized all their capabilities and at 0830 [0500 GMT] they appeared and gave a 5-minute warning to the workers of the Oil Ministry who were stationed on the two platforms, asking them to evacuate. Before they could do so, the ships opened fire. They then landed with their helicopters and cannons and fired on the platforms.

This incident was to us a very important one, as the United States had started a war with us although there was no reason for its attack on our people and our two platforms.

It attacked on a false pretext, and we considered it our duty to confront the Americans and enter the battle. Fortunately, the IRGC Navy has facilities which even the Americans do not know how to combat, and it is for this reason that they suffered blows so quickly.

The 1st Squadron of the IRGC Naval Forces and the 2d Squadron of the Navy participated in this saga-making battle. As I explained earlier, brothers of the Armed Forces' Navy participated.

We selected three axes for our operations against the Americans. One axis was the attack on warships which attacked the Nasr platform. The second was the attack on an oil platform which the Americans used and which had U.S. technical personnel on it.

They also extracted oil and exported it from there. The third axis, on the left, was so that in the event the Americans attacked from there or wished to enter from there, our forces would be prepared. In all, scores of armed gunboats were used.

In the first axis our brothers attacked the warships five times in all. Each time five Cobra AH-1 helicopters flew toward our brothers, and each time our brothers were successful in facing them and approaching their warships.

Until 1830 [1500 GMT] that day, that is, throughout the course of the day the Americans were ranged around the Salman platform, our brothers continued their attacks.

Finally, at sunset they reached the sides of the warship there and were able to fire 12 rockets at it. To date, we still have no report of the results. They have not announced anything. We do not know whether the rockets hit the warship or near it.

In the central axis, when we understood that the Americans wanted to seriously damage our oil platform, one of our units along with scores of fast gunboats attacked an oil platform in the area, which was near our oil platform and used by the American (Crescent) Company.

This clash contiued for 5 and 1/2 hours, and in this epic-making battle in which our brothers participated, the Americans entered the action with helicopters to prevent the attack.

As they were not successful, they brought in their E-6 airplanes. When they had first moved toward the area, our brothers came across a U.S. logistical vessel flying the U.S. flag which had Americans on board and was receiving support from U.S. warships. Our brothers attacked it so intensively that the vessel sank and its occupants drowned in the depths of the Persian Gulf.

They then continued toward the oil platform. This platform, a massive complex, was attacked by our brothers who inflicted major damage on it. I think the platform has been 90 percent destroyed and probably about 70 persons were on it.

Most of them were Americans. Many helicopters came for the evauation of these persons and most of them were probably evacuated, but some who could not be evacuated were probably wounded. The helicopters then clashed with our brothers.

As the objective was to attack U.S. targets in the region, our brothers continued on with their assignment, confining themselves to forcing the helicopters to retreat from the area.

A huge tanker that was engaged in providing fuel to the warships was observed in the area and our brothers attacked this vessel as well. According to reports, it was badly damaged and sank the next day.

During this time U.S. helicopters appeared in the area and tried to clash with our fighters. They continued to circle around, and the helicopters clashed with our brothers five times in this area.

During the fifth clash our brothers were able to down one AH-1 Cobra military helicopter. All of our fighters saw it falling with their own eyes; its two pilots were killed.

After this incident, the Americans used their airplanes which had previously only provided cover. They attacked with rockets and machineguns. When they saw that these were not hitting their targets they used laser-guided bombs against our gunboats.

They dropped bombs on our gunboats. Fortunately, due to the maneuverability of the gunboats, the Americans were not able to do anything except damage one gunboat, which was able to return to its base. In this clash, two of our noble brothers were martyred.

In these operations as reported, probably 20 Americans were killed; two of them were definitely pilots. In the third axis the brothers continued their patrolling. One vessel under the regional warships' support was attacked and set ablaze.

In all on Monday, while the Americans were attacking our platforms, our IRGC naval fighters were extensively present on the sea and fired at any target they saw, so that the Americans were forced to retreat from the region and move out of range of our gunboats' fire.

[Afshar] Mr 'Ala'i, the losses inflicted on U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf by our selfless fighters are a source of joy to us. However, experience has shown us that they always attack oil platforms which are mostly nonmilitary and unprotected.

There is the chance that they may again attack other oil platforms. It seems we must take steps to protect these platforms. Has anything been done?

['Ala'i] I forgot to mention that in those operations an American drilling rig was seen and attacked, but we do not know whether it was sunk. What is clear is that we must protect all interests of the Islamic Republic and all of our oil platforms.

We have made plans in this regard. Of course, our platforms are active and oil is extracted and produced from them; we do not wish to transform them into military units.

However, plans are being made to protect these oil platforms from the Americans, plans that will be implemented in the near future. A fundamental solution would be that instead of defending against irregular American attacks—if they wish to continue these—we should continue [fighting] until they decide on their strategy once and for all.

[Afshar] Commodore Malekzadegan, regarding what Brother 'Ala'i has just said—that it is possible that U.S. mischief may continue in the region—do you think that the Islamic Republic of Iran will use its strategic resources against the United States? In other words, will Iran take any steps against U.S. forces in the Strait of Hormuz?

[Malekzadegan] I should say here that our policy is clear. As we have announced many times, as long as the Strait of Hormuz can be used by us we will utilize it for our benefit.

If the time comes when we cannot do so, the Strait of Hormuz should be and will be closed for all countries of the world, not only for us. That will be the time when we use our shore-to-sea or sea-to-sea missiles, or any other arms that we have.

This the world knows. We have more than seven different kinds of sea missiles. We have various kinds on the shores, with varying ranges. We are equipped with many systems and facilities.

We declare that we can close the Strait of Hormuz, and we can do so. Our Navy has never in its history been so well-prepared. All of our units, from the smallest gunboats to the heavy destroyers—which the United States said were reduced to scrap iron due to the departure of U.S. and foreign experts—have been transformed into iron strongholds.

The dedicated, devout, and sincere technical personnel have worked around the clock to prepare these units for combat against our enemies.

In addition to our units' being fully prepared, their systems have now been changed in a way which is amazing for the enemy United States to understand, as we have used these missile and arms systems at sea on various other occasions, as well as recently. They are also aware that in comparison with their own systems we are well-prepared.

[Afshar] Commodore Malekzadegan, in the operations on Monday against the Americans in the Persian Gulf, you mentioned the selflessness of the Navy. Our brother here also spoke of the selflessness of the IRGC brothers.

Could you tell us whether our brothers in the two forces entered combat together, or as two separate entities?

[Malekzadegan] I wish to state that in general there is, praise be to God, complete unity and harmony. In these particular operations, we made our plans independently of the IRGC.

Of course, our brothers entered the field at the same time. However, in view of our duty in the Persian Gulf, our work is not (?temporary). We do not come just for one particular assignment. Some of our personnel are at sea around the clock.

In view of the duties outlined in the Constitution and the new Armed Forces' laws, that is, defending the Islamic homeland's maritime frontiers, ports, islands, and economic resources, we patrol the Persian Gulf night and day. We can encounter the enemy at any moment and would enter into action according to approved plans.

The IRGC's extensive presence in the operations was due to their assignments, as they had been alerted 2 days earlier and had more time to prepare themselves to face the enemy.

[Afshar] Mr 'Ala'i, I have heard that, after hearing of the performance of our fast gunboats in the Persian Gulf, some countries that are also our enemies, including the British naval forces, want to use such gunboats. I think the people would like to know about these gunboats and their maneuverability.

['Ala'i] The actual strength of these gunboats stems from the people on them. The world has more equipment, arms, and facilities than we have. What makes the Islamic Republic stronger is that there are people who are ready to sacrifice all for it, people who are ready to perform their duty of fighting the enemy.

Gunboats are present in the world, but what makes these so special and what is being mentioned now is the determination and initiative of their personnel. The world follows a set, dictated pattern for its wars and the use of its facilities.

We do not follow any pattern without questioning its validity. In the Persian Gulf war and the use of the gunboats, the initiative of the fighters is what is important.

Also, we use the gunboats appropriately against the enemy. They are very maneuverable, they are not very visible on the enemy's radar, and they can quickly find and confront the enemy. However, the enemy cannot cause them much harm, as they can depart from the scene quickly.

[Afshar] Commodore Malekzadegan, after the Monday battle the Americans announced that they were suspending the escort of Kuwaiti vessels under the U.S. flag.

When we analyze this U.S. statement, one or two points arise. One is that it is possible the Americans have been intimidated by our selfless forces on the "Tasu'a" and "'Ashura" [names of gunboats] and have announced they will not escort any more vessels. Another is that Americans think the Iranians will not dare go near these vessels now. What do you think?

[Malekzadegan] I think the United States has been frightened and wants to wait for a while to see what our reaction will be. They want to assess the situation before they cautiously take other action. A sign of this fear is their complete retreat from Monday's scene of battle.

They quickly moved away and we found evidence that they had suffered a blow. As the sea obliterates the signs of action, we were not able to assess the extent of their loss.

They are probably preparing themselves for some future program or trying to analyze and assess things further. Monday's operations made them realize that our Navy powerfully resists all aggression. We are not ones to trifle with. They are now analyzing and deciding if they should change their escort or other methods. We are now aware of how they escort their vessels and we have a plan to confront these actions. God willing, it will be implemented at the proper time.

[Afshar] Mr 'Ala'i, do you have anything to say in this regard?

['Ala'i] The Americans were certainly not expecting an immediate reprisal for their aggression. They thought there would be a lapse of 2 or 3 days before we took any action. They did not expect such an extensive confrontation in the central part of the Persian Gulf, along an area of 400 km. They thought they could perform this act, declare it finished, and end it there. What they had planned to finish in one hour turned into an 8-hour battle.

Although they had mobilized extensive facilities, they suffered more blows. They lost some of their military and economic facilities. The United States needs to review the situation with a fresh assessment and forecast of possibilities. As we have said, we shall respond to all U.S. blows.

[Afshar] For the last question of this roundtable discussion, could you give our viewers a general breakdown of the damages sustained by the United States? It would be very welcome.

['Ala'i] The Americans, first of all, suffered a major setback when they thought that reflagging vessels would prevent problems. Confidence in their flag was lost. Second, their military prestige has suffered a complete downfall. Third, they have suffered military losses.

By entering the Persian Gulf, the Americans have caused many things to take place. Two of their warships have been hit, one with a missile, one with a mine. They had to depart. Six helicopters have been lost, as well as two airplanes. In addition, certain events took place which the Americans claimed to be able to prevent. An example of this is the attacks on vessels. The attacks have increased since the Americans arrived.

From the day the Americans entered the Persian Gulf, about 100 vessels have been attacked. This demonstrates U.S. impotence in providing security escorts for vessels. The problem of mines in the Persian Gulf has cropped up. One Soviet, two U.S., and four other ships have collided with mines, even though the Americans claim to have rallied all the minesweepers of the world to the region.

When the "Samuel Roberts" hit a mine, about 18 minesweepers were in the Persian Gulf. This shows the U.S. military's incompetence. The greatest loss the Americans have suffered in the Persian Gulf is the display of the weakness of the U.S. military and its warships.

[Afshar] Thank you Brother 'Ala'i, and you, Commodore Malekzadegan, for participating in this program. Dear viewers, as I mentioned at the outset, the participants in this program came from the operational sector at noon today to participate. They will return to the operational sector now. We thank these two brothers once again for accepting our invitation. With wishes for victory and success for Islamic combatants against the world infidels, I wish you good night. God bless you all.

Deputy Oil Minister Holds Talks in Beijing

LD201911 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing, April 29, IRNA—Oil Ministry Deputy for International Affairs, Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili met Chinese minister of foreign economic relations and trade, here today. Kazempur-Ardabili is currently visiting China to discuss Iran-China commercial and oil issues.

In the meeting the two sides conferred on ways of promoting Tehran-Beijing commercial cooperation.

The Iranian official exchanged views with the Chinese minister on the latest developments in the oil market and on the oncoming meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC producers. He also called for a closer cooperation between the two groups of producers.

The Chinese official responded that his country is quite ready to cooperate with all members of OPEC to stabilize the oil price at the international markets.

"China has reduced its oil exports several times before upon OPEC's requests," he noted, adding that a 5 percent reduction will also take place this year," he added. [quotation marks as received]

At the end of the meeting the Chinese minister announced his country's readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran and with the OPEC as a whole.

Envoy to Beijing on Response to U.S. Attack

LD211355 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Beijing, April 21, IRNA—The Persian Gulf drama over the past few days was a desperate attempt by the U.S. for diverting world public attention from the "Halabjah catastrophe" committed by the Iraqi regime, said Iranian ambassador in Beijing Ala'eddin Borujerdi here Wednesday.

Borujerdi addressing a press conference in the Chinese capital, noted that the unprovoked air and sea attacks on Iranian oil rigs added another blunder to the Reagan administration's follies. Iran considers the U.S. move as a direct involvement in the imposed war and will certainly give a crushing answer, he made it clear.

"Iran's reaction against the U.S. will not be restricted to the Persian Gulf region," he warned.

The ambassador said the Islamic Republic calls for tranquillity in the region, and naturally has the right to confront any lawless move.

Adverting to last September's U.S. copters' attack on the cargo ship "Iran-Ajr", Borujerdi said U.S. forces have always initiated attacks on the Islamic Republic, while Iran has only exercised its right to defend against U.S. aggressions.

Borujerdi turning to the Iraqi use of Kuwait's Bubiyan Island and the U.S. forces' direct military aid to Iraqi troops against Iranian positions in Al-Faw peninsula, stressed that on whatever soil Iranian combatants confront Iraqi forces, they are justified in treating it as Iraqi territory.

Iraq's begging of aid from Kuwait and the U.S. proves its utter misery in ground operations, he said.

On the Afghan issue, he said the recent accord is unacceptable to Iran since Afghan mujahidin, the main party to the conflict were not present at the Geneva talks. The two superpowers concluded the agreements in Geneva, ignoring the Afghan Muslims' views, he added. Afghan mujahidin will continue struggling and Iran will back them, he noted.

On this year's hajj pilgrimage, the Iranian ambassador said "as Imam Khomeyni has emphasised, if the Hijaz Government does not accept 150,000 Iranian pilgrims, it has stood up against all the world's Muslims."

Turkish Paper on Decision To Close Airspace

NC180719 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 11 Apr 88 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Ankara, (CUMHURIYET News Service)—Iranian officials have expressed the following view regarding Turkey's decision to close its airspace near the Iran-Iraq border region and to open fire on any aircraft violating Turkish airspace in southeastern Anatolia:

"The matter concerns Iraq, not Iran. We have handed protest notes to Turkey several times in the past in connection with the violation of Turkish airspace by Iraqi aircraft for the purpose of bombing Iran. Iraq is the target of Turkey's decison, not Iran." [passage omitted]

On the other hand, diplomatic observers have said that Ankara's latest decision is "a new and concrete step which should be regarded as an official stand progressing beyond the warnings issued in the past." The diplomatic observers added that the "note has given a binding nature to the warnings.'

Circles close to the Iranian Embassy in Ankara have said that Turkey's decision will not have a bearing on Iran. They stated: "We have handed protest notes to Ankara several times concerning the bombardment of Iran by Iraqi aircraft using Turkish airspace, demanding that the Iraqi aircraft be not allowed to use Turkish airspace. The aggressor is Iraq and Turkey's latest decision is a warning against Baghdad."

GDR's Stoph Sends Message to Prime Minister

LD211210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Willi Stoph, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, sent a message today to our country's prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi. The message was submitted to the political deputy of the prime minister this morning during his meeting with that country's ambassador.

KEYHAN Urges Strengthening of Armed Forces

PM190700 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
7 Apr 88 p 2

[Editorial by Javad Yusefzadeh: "The People's Resistance—The Condition of Victory in the War"]

[Text] God is kind to people who write their own fate. Our new year has started at a time when the Iran-Iraq war is undergoing sensitive and decisive stages. To understand the issue better, it is best to look at the last few months of the past year.

Resolution No 598 was passed last year. This resolution asked Iran and Iraq to end the war. In accordance with the resolution there must be a cease-fire, after which a committee will be formed to determine who started the war. The Islamic Republic of Iran dealt very cleverly with this issue. It did not reject the resolution outright, because that would have meant international opinion's turning against Iran, causing more hostile actions from the major powers.

Instead Iran opened a new chapter by asking for the clauses of the resolution to be rearranged in a different order. Iran would accept the terms of the resolution if Iraq was declared the aggressor. This position caused friction among the Security Council members and, despite the wishes of the UN secretary general, who wanted to resolve the issue in Iran's favor, the whole exercise became deadlocked.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's position is the key to any political or diplomatic solution to the war because if Iraq is not identified as the aggressor at the beginning and if this is not recognized as a preliminary assumption in all diplomatic dealings, it is not clear what the major powers will do, as almost all support Iraq. It is not clear whether after a cease-fire and all its related issues, the powers would bring enough pressure on Iraq to pay the penalty and to punish that regime. Therefore, it is up to Iran to hold on to that condition as a bargaining chip. On the other hand, Iraq and its supporters are trying to get rid of this precondition because, according to present calculations, if that regime is declared the aggressor it will lose the war.

The recent round of rocket attacks started by Iraq was designed to force Iran to accept Resolution No 598 unconditionally. Because Iraq had new long-range missiles, it believed their power would be more effective than the Air Force and that they would be able to compete with the Iranian rockets that can hit Baghdad, thereby creating a balance of power. It has used these missiles in an unlimited way and deployed them against any Iranian military move on the fronts.

A new aspect of the war has emerged in terms of military matters and also in the minds of the international community, and that is the use of chemical weapons following the Iranians' capture of a huge portion of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province and the city of Halabjah. In order to take its revenge on the people of Halabjah and the Iraqi Kurds who had welcomed Iranian troops and cooperated with them, the Iraqi regime used chemical gas on the people and the liberated areas. Thousands of people fell victim to that regime's wicked and aggressive intentions.

The chemical bombing of Halabjah is one of the most painful disasters in terms of human casualties. In recent days the Islamic Republic of Iran has revealed this horror to the mass media, and this has caused great a great revulsion in the world. Even the UN secretary general condemned Iraq and sent some experts to Iran to review the matter. This issue is likely to become a turning point in the war in the sense that it will weaken the Iraqi regime's political position in the world and also mobilize the Iraqi Kurds to seek their revenge. This in turn will cause more problems for the Iraqi regime and its supporters.

We know that the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, is in the control of the world powers, mostly the United States. It can safely be said that the powers mentioned are all supporters of Iraq and want to put pressure on Iran. Under the present circumstances it seems unlikely that the UN Secretary General's actions will have a clear outcome and, as before, the United Nations will not be able to do much.

One cannot pin much hope on UN action, but at least the latest incidents add to Iraq's list of crimes and prepare the world to accept Iran's views. Therefore, it is necessary for the Islamic Republic to carry out its diplomatic moves on an international level.

What is worthy of note, however, is that in the world's political arena it is military might that matters above all, above the rights of the people. Any country with military superiority also wields more power at the negotiating table and in the political arena, and has more power to enforce its words, even though it may be unjust and against international law. The criminal United States and other world powers have been using this principle for centuries to bring the world under their control.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran must strengthen its military might, advance on the fronts, and deliver deadly blows against Iraq, so that it can secure its rights and make everyone understand its position. The latest movements on the fronts indicate this precisely.

One of the results of the imposed war has been the attention given by Iran to strengthening its armed forces. These forces have now reached an advanced level. As a result other countries will think twice before attacking Iran in the future. It also means that, after the war, the Islamic Republic will be able to help other weak and innocent countries, peoples, and movements as well as the international Islamic movement in the face of the oppression meted out by powers and corrupt, puppet regimes. One can look optimistically for this development in the future.

So, the emphasis has been shifted. There must be more operations on the fronts, more mobilization of fresh troops to replace those on the line, and the military must be strengthened. Self-sufficiency in weapons production is a necessity. Nor must it be forgotten that the more time we give the enemy, the more he will prepare himself, the harder the final victory will be, and the longer it will take.

In the final analysis, the enemy's air supply must be cut off so that with God's help, he will give up and surrender. More important than all of this is the need to strengthen the people's resistance to the psychological warfare started by the enemy. The key to each and every victory is the people's resistance on the economic front in accepting hardships, on the military fronts in raising huge numbers, and on the political fronts in being present at the scenes of the revolution and following the leader of the Islamic Revolution. [Koranic verse omitted]

Tehran Assails U.S. Efforts on Arms Embargo

LD211402 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Recently, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, on the eve of his visit to Moscow, again reaffirmed Washington's decision to continue its efforts to have a UN resolution approved for imposing an arms embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Shultz' visit to Moscow takes place under conditions when Reagan's visit to Moscow and his meetings with Gorbachev should, based on the announced schedule, take place on 28 May.

Therefore, it seems that issues such as the Iran-Iraq war, Afghanistan, and Palestine will be on the agenda of the issues to be discussed between the two sides within the context of regional clashes. Certainly some of Shultz' discussions during this visit will also revolve around those issues.

Furthermore, in view of the current situation in the Iran-Iraq war and the obvious partiality of Reagan's government in supporting the Iraqi regime, it seems that Washington will intensify its pressure on the other permament members of the Security Council, particularly as the existence of some other sensitive issues, such as Afghanistan and Palestine and Moscow's known links with the Iraqi regime, have increased Reagan's optimism about implementing the conspiracy of imposing an arms embargo against Iran.

In any case, efforts by Western governments, led by the United States, reveal that world arrogance is gradually moving toward imposing greater pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, preventing the downfall of the regime of Saddam, and denying the attainment of the wishes of the Iranian nation. For quite some time now Reagan's government, by exerting pressure on its Western allies, has imposed certain restrictions on the requirements of the fighters of Islam. Washington's insistence on inplementing a resolution as soon as possible banning the sale of weapons to the Islamic Republic of Iran has the same goal, but on a more extensive scale, in an open manner, and within the context of a seemingly legal framework by both the East and West.

These efforts have also coincided with the ever-increasing arming of the Iraqi regime. The main efforts of world arrogance are directed at paving the way to trample upon Iranian demands and putting an end to the imposed war within the context of the wishes of the East and West by continuing the war of the cities, reinvigorating the Iraqi Armed Forces, and giving Saddam a free hand to use chemical weapons.

Therefore, at this critical juncture, it is necessary for the economic and military plans of the country to be redrawn in a manner in keeping with the present war situation and the comprehensive conspiracies of world arrogance, and to be organized in such a way that the fighters of Islam can, through their crushing and continuous moves, change the nature of present equations and pave the way for the implementation of Iranian demands.

Therefore, more extensive participation by the people and precise and realistic evaluations of existing conditions and capabilities are among the important elements that can, as in the past, inflict defeat on the conspiracies of world arrogance and, reciprocally, force them to face new problems. Furthermore, in view of the powerful morale and self-sacrificing nature of the Iranian nation, it is absolutely clear that if necessary steps are taken and if the capabilities of the country are brought into line with present conditions, the new plots of world arrogance will again face defeat and failure, as they have on previous occasions.

WIH Spokesman Denies Missile Strike on Al-Qurnah

LD221117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpts] A spokesman for the WIH said the claims made yesterday by the Zionist regime of Iraq about the fighters attacking the Iraqi city of Al-Qurnah with missiles are false and sheer lies. [passage omitted]

He added that the fabrication of such a claim by Baghdad is really an old pretext used to prepare the ground for future attacks by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime against the residential areas of our country.

Iraqi Halt to Cities War 'Propaganda Ploy'

LD211704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] The Iraqi regime in a propaganda ploy has raised once again the issue of halting attacks against Iran's residential areas. According to news agencies, the Iraqi regime announced without any preliminaries that it will halt attacks against Iran's residential areas from midnight Wednesday. In the last 2 months this is the fourth time that Baghdad's rulers have halted the attacks on cities that they themselves initiated. The last three times Baghdad's rulers by resorting to unfounded excuses have resumed the attacks on Iran's residential areas after an interval.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

15 Iraqis Killed Near Basra

LD211749 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 21, IRNA—Over 15 Iraqi forces were killed and two tanks and a bunker of theirs destroyed by heavy Iranian fire on Iraqi positions and fortifications east of River Tigris over the past 24 hours.

Iran's Mulsim combatants also shelled Iraqi supply routes east of Tigris and east of Basra as a result of which enemy engineering activities were brought to a halt.

Meanwhile, Ramadan Headquarters said, an Iraqi commander identified as Colonel Muhammad Ya'qub was killed in Garmiyan region in Kirkuk Province by Iraqi Mohajedin of Badr Division 9 during an attack carried out a few days ago.

Iraq Uses Chemical Bombs 21 Apr

LD221106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] According to our reporter, the criminal and inhuman Iraqi regime which has persistently violated international regulations and human values, in another criminal act yesterday subjected the village of (Hoveyjneh) in the Hoveyzeh region of Khuzestan Province to chemical bombardment, wounding dozens of our Arab-speaking compatriots.

After this chemical bombardment by the enemy, which occurred at 1330 yesterday, chemical defense units quickly arrived on the scene, transferred the victims to medical centers, and embarked on the decontamination of the area.

The report also says that at around 1315 yesterday the savage Iraqi regime's aircraft embarked on the chemical bombardment of the (Dar-Khoweyn) region in Khuzestan Province. A number of our compatriots were wounded in that bombardment. They were rapidly transfered to medical centers and the IRGC's chemical defense units completely decontaminated the effected area.

Iraq Renews Chemical Attacks

LD221652 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—Several civilians were martyred and wounded Thursday as Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on Karkhenur [placename as received] and Shamariyeh villages on the outskirts of the southern Iranian city of Susangerd.

Iraqi Artillery Shells Abadan

LD221516 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—Residential quarters in Abadan, Khuzestan Province, were shelled by the Iraqi Ba'thist artillery fire Friday. Seven houses sustained damage and one case of fire was reported. Seventeen people were injured.

Afghan Group's Letter Condemns Geneva Accord

LD170907 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 17 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA—The Society of Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan sent a letter to Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today and condemned the Geneva accord between Pakistan, the Soviet Union and the Afghan Government. It said the Afghans will continue their struggle against the occupying troops.

The letter also lauded Iran's Foreign Ministry's communique on the document.

Briefs

Drug Traffickers Arrested in Kerman

[Text] Some 9,500 kgs of narcotics including 132 ks of heroin and 32 kgs of hashish were discovered and seized from drug traffickers in this southern province last calendar year (ended March 20), an official of the governor-general's office said here Tuesday. The official said that 43 bandits were also killed and 179 drug traffickers arrested after clashes with Iranian security forces over the same period. [Text] [*LD210541 Tehran IRNA in English 1342 GMT 19 Apr 88*]

Pakistan

DAWN Considers Prospects for Geneva Accords

BK220721 Karachi DAWN in English
15 Apr 88 p 9

[Editorial: "Geneva Accords and Beyond"]

[Text] When the prospects for an Afghan settlement were still shrouded in darkness, General Ziaul Haq made a memorable remark. He said that if ever Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan, it would be "the miracle of the twentieth century."

In the light of what is soon to happen across the Durand Line it would seem that the period of miracles has not passed, for with the signing of the much-waited Geneva accords on Afghanistan, the Kremlin has pledged itself to withdraw its troops from that country within nine months.

What is more, it has pledged to withdraw half of those troops within the first three months. Thus, the grim chapter opened by the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979 is about to come to a close.

No one can be certain about what the immediate future holds for Afghanistan since many issues central to the establishment of permanent peace there remain unresolved.

All the same, this does not detract from what after six tortuous years has finally been achieved at Geneva. The Soviet army had entered Afghanistan with the intention of pacifying it but it is now leaving Afghanistan without having achieved that objective.

This constitutes a signal failure of its arms and a singular admission by the Kremlin of the blunder of its Afghan adventure. Admittedly, Mr Gorbachev's ascension to power has had a lot to do with this Soviet reappraisal.

Had the Brezhnev legacy continued unchallenged, chances are the Soviet leadership might instinctively have persevered in the rashness of its Afghan policy.

But having said that, it cannot be denied that had Moscow been victorious in Afghanistan, it would not have accepted the Geneva accords in their recent shape.

Where these accords reflect the Kremlin's failure to douse the fires of rebellion in Afghanistan, they are also a testimony to the valour and heroism of the Afghan people who refused to bow their heads before superior military might. At the same time, the Geneva accords reflect the exigencies of world politics.

The Soviet intervention coincided with the arrival in the White House of President Ronald Reagan and his band of cold warriors who, in the wake of the disasters of Vietnam and the seizure of the American hostages in Tehran, were committed to rolling back what they considered as the expansionist frontiers of an "evil empire."

Afghanistan thus became an international cause celebre, with the United States master-minding a huge effort to keep the Soviet bear from finding comfort in the arid wastes of Afghanistan.

Transformed overnight into a "Frontline State," Pakistan received generous military and economic assistance for its pains. And so did the Afghan resistance for whom the Americans mounted their largest covert operation since the end of the Vietnam war.

It bears remembering that but for this help, the struggle of the Afghan resistance might have withered on the vine. The wider aspects of the Afghan conflict are also reflected in the fact that the Geneva accords were clinched not because of anything done by the parties immediately concerned but by an understanding reached between the two superpowers.

Had the crucial decisions not been taken in Moscow and Washington, the agreement signed at Geneva would still have been taxing Mr Cordovez's patience.

Which does not mean at all that peace in Afghanistan is at hand. The only conclusive thing settled at Geneva is the withdrawal of Soviet troops from there.

Precariously or otherwise, Najibullah remains in power and the resistance, which has rejected the Geneva accords, remains on the warpath vowing not to rest their efforts till they have dealt a death-blow to the Najibullah regime and replaced it with an "Islamic government."

Mr Cordovez has been entrusted with the thankless task of creating a broad-based Afghan government which should help encourage the refugees to return to their homeland.

But given the animosities that divide the regime and its opponents and also the weapons both sides have stockpiled, thanks to their superpower patrons, his success in this direction must remain subject to a lot of doubt.

In effect, therefore, Moscow and Washington, as they turn their attention to other problems that bedevil their relationship, have decided to extricate themselves eventually from their respective commitments in Afghanistan, leaving it to the Afghans to settle their quarrels among themselves according to their own time-honoured fashion.

Pakistan has reason to feel proud that its steadfastness in helping the refugees and the resistance has contributed in no small measure to the success of the cause of Afghan independence.

But before being swept away on a tide of euphoria Pakistan will have to pay close attention to the many unresolved issues pertaining to this problem that are still on its plate.

There is an inbuilt ambiguity in the Geneva accords which is likely to place Pakistan in a considerable dilemma. On the one hand, Pakistan is pledged not to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan; on the other, the accords read in their totality permit the US to aid the resistance if the Soviet Union is seen helping its friends in Kabul.

The question is: How will the US operate its pipeline to the resistance if not through Pakistani territory? If Pakistan permits itself to be used in this manner, it can be accused of bad faith by the Kremlin and of violation of the obligation under the relevant instrument of the accords.

Secondly, the continuation of civil war conditions in Afghanistan could have a fallout on Pakistan. After all, our role in the Afghan war thus far has not been without its costs and troubles.

Big-time trafficking in drugs and sophisticated arms are only two of its most conspicuous consequences. The continuation of strife in Afghanistan could exacerbate these problems.

And, thirdly, if this were to happen, many of the Afghan refugees that Pakistan is looking after would feel discouraged from returning to their embattled homeland, thus increasing the pressures that Pakistan has faced for 8 long years and more on their account.

All of which dictates the necessity of tempering self-congratulation with caution, of not doing anything on our part that could aggravate conditions in Afghanistan and of looking beyond the Afghan conflict and opening a new chapter of relations with the Soviet Union which, despite everything, is a neighbouring power whose contiguous presence cannot simply be wished away.

Meanwhile, efforts must be concentrated on creating a broad-based government in Kabul and if to do that Pakistan has to exercise the influence it should have on the more radical figures among the resistance, it should not hesitate to do so.

If negotiations conducted in earnest could help bring about the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, there is no reason why the same process should not help in the creation of conditions that could bind the wounds of that strife-torn country.

Sri Lanka

Spokesman on Return of Refugees From India

BK211124 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] The total number of refugees from Tamil Nadu who have returned to Sri Lanka since the signing of peace accord is now 23,270. A spokesman for the Department of Immigration told LANKA PUWATH that 879 Sri Lankan refugees belonging to 339 families returned to Kankesanturai from Tamil Nadu last weekend.

This was the fourth batch of refugees to disembark at Kankesanturai after the India-Sri Lanka agreement was signed. A spokesman said another of batch of refugees is expected at the end of this month.

18 Accused in Conspiracy Plot Released

BK211144 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1127 GMT 21 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Apr 21 (LANKA PUWATH)—Eighteen of fortyfour persons indicted in a case of conspiracy to overthrow the Sri Lanka Government were discharged yesterday by the High Court judge, Vimal Wickremasuriya on their having given solemn undertaking to renounce violence and disassociate themselves from engaging in any subversive activities, on a nolle prosequi entered by the attorney general.

In this case 44 persons were originally charged on 13 counts under the emergency regulations and the Prevention of Terrorism Act with conspiring to overthrow the legally constituted Government of Sri Lanka, committing robberies, training people in military activities and inciting the people to overthrow the government by force.

Some of the accused were also charged with the murder of a soldier, robbery of money from petrol stations and schools and collecting arms, ammunition and explosives. Yesterday 18 of the accused persons were present as a number of the other accused were absconding while seven of the accused had already been sentenced to three months simple imprisonment each on their pleading guilty to amended charges of failure to give information to the police regarding terrorist activities.

Nominations Filed for Provincial Elections

BK211329 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1149 GMT 21 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—Police said to LANKA PUWATH that no incidents had been reported as nominations for the Provincial Councils of Western, Central, and Southern Provinces closed at 12 noon [0630 GMT] today.

The United National Party, United Socialist Alliance, the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, and the Liberal Party filed nominations to contest the elections for the Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara Districts of the Western Province.

The United National Party, the United Socialist Alliance, and the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress handed in their nominations for Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya Districts of the Central Province.

The United National Party, United Socialist Alliance and the Independent groups filed nominations for Galle and Hambantota Districts while the United National Party and United Socialist Alliance handed in nominations for Matara District of the Southern Province.

Nominations have been received today at the nine kachcheries [offices] for the Provincial Council elections.

Indian Colonel, 3 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed

BK220804 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0703 GMT 22 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—A senior Indian Army officer was killed in a firefight with LTTE terrorists in northern Sri Lanka yesterday. Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the dead officer was Lieutenant Colonel A. Shekhon, commanding officer of the 7th Madras Regiment.

They said an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] captain was also wounded in the encounter at 1130 hours yesterday, in which the LTTE leader of Paranthan, codenamed Nixon, was also killed, along with two other LTTE cadres. Paranthan is situated at the tip of the Jaffna peninsula, 260 km north of Colombo.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that following intelligence reports that an LTTE gang was operating in the area, Lt. Col. Shekhon had led a patrol to track down the terrorists. However, they had been ambushed by the LTTE gang led by the terrorists at Urithrapuram, 7 km west of Paranthan, who attacked the IPKF patrol from the cover of shrub jungle and paddy fields on either side of the road. The IPKF patrol had counter-attacked killing the three LTTE terrorists.

JVP Military 'Hit Squad' Arrested in Colombo

BK221014 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0854 GMT 22 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, 22 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—A special team of the city police has rounded up the military wing cell of the proscribed political party 'Janata Vimukthi Peramuna' (JVP) at Kirallapone, (Colombo-6).

Police told LANKA PUWATH that this JVP hit squad, comprising twenty one southern terrorists, were responsible for the attacks on the offices of the left Sinhalese language [newspaper] 'ATHTHA' on October 1st last year and an attack on the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) office, later on the same day in Colombo. Among twenty one persons arrested was a young woman teacher at a children's home.

Police told LANKA PUWATH investigations revealed that the Kirallapone cell was allegedly led by a university student, code named 'Sirimal'.

At 10.30 on the night before the attack on the 'ATHTHA' newspaper office, the hit squad held a meeting at a safe house at Kirallapone where the cell leader had announced that the JVP high command had ordered attacks on the ATHTHA and LSSP offices. [passage omitted]

Police Inspector on Split in JVP Leadership

BK220958 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0856 GMT 22 Apr 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Apr (LANKA PUWATH)—The deputy inspector general [DIG] of police in charge of Southern Province, Richard Wijesekera, told LANKA PUWATH that the operations of the proscribed Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) in the south were crumbling and the split between leader Rohana Wijeweera and the deputy Upatissa Gamanayake had widened to such a large extent that the JVP cadres were now in a state of confusion and some of them had already surrendered to the police.

He said latest intelligence reports received by him state that JVP leader Wijeweera's life was now endangered by his own cadres, and it was in the interests of Wijeweera to lay down arms and surrender, before he was killed by his own members.

DIG Wijesekera said that there had been no serious incidents during yesterday's nominations to the provincial councils at Galle, Matara and Hambantota and the situation was peaceful.

He said that in addition the fact that thousands of people participated in new year festivities without the JVP being able to disrupt any of them clearly showed that southern terrorism was well under control. Security forces were relentlessly pursuing the objective of rounding up terrorists and speeding up (?their) return to the southern province.

Giving details, Mr Wijesekera said an estimated 25,000 persons had attended the new year festivities organized at Lunugamwehera, 20,000 at Kataragama, 15,000 at Hambantota in addition to several thousands more at Matara, Galle and other areas in the south.

He said, however, there were sporadic acts of terrorism, such as two armed robberies reported in the south carried out by southern terrorists on push bicycles last Wednesday. In one instance, they had robbed the cooperative stores of Rs. 19,000.04, and in another a teacher's payroll of Rs. 41,000.